

Reagan balm washes Bitburg scars

From Derek Brown in Belsen and Anna Tomforde in Bitburg

PRESIDENT Reagan pulled out all the emotional and theatrical stops in a spectacular progress yesterday through Belsen concentration camp and the Bitburg war cemetery.

The controversial climax of his European tour featured powerful pleas for reconciliation 40 years after VE Day. But the President also strove to pacify the many critics of his crusade by declaring repeatedly that the new understanding could never mean forgetting the horrors of Nazism.

He said before the great plain obelisk at Belsen: "Here, death ruled. But we have learned something as well. Because of what happened we found that death cannot rule forever. And that is why we are here today."

But the President's appeal by no means stilled the anger and resentment about his acceptance of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's invitation to make the visits. The main German opposition, the Social Democratic Party, conspicuously lacked representatives among the dignitaries at Belsen and Bitburg. Instead, party leaders joined in joint VE Day commemorations with Jewish organisations.

There were Jewish protests at Belsen and Bitburg. But overwhelming security cordons kept demonstrators well clear of the presidential party and there were no serious incidents.

The visit to Bitburg was drastically abbreviated by White House order: presidential aides have been struggling to stem the public outcry which followed the belated discovery there of 49 Waffen SS graves.

The President and Chancellor Kohl spent seven minutes in the cemetery. For half that time they stood silent before a memorial to the dead, which bore a wreath placed in advance,



The West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, a retired German air force general, Johannes Steinhoff, President Reagan, and a retired US general, Matthew Ridgway, at the German military cemetery in Bitburg.

while a lone Bundeswehr bugler played the equivalent of the last post. A symbolic handshake of reconciliation was left to war time veterans accompanying the two leaders—General Matthew Ridgway and General Johannes Steinhoff.

Less than a yard separated the statesmen from the line of squat sandstone crosses marking the SS graves. Neither man, conscious that the eyes of the world were on them so much as glanced at them.

The entire visit was shown live on German television, and President Reagan's every step was followed by American networks and a sizeable chunk of the White House press corps which did so much to fan the controversy. Hundreds of reporters and camera crews followed the President throughout the day, many of them in a small aerial armada of helicopters laid on by the Bonn Government.

Dr Kohl had insisted that the US President keep his promise to send out an unmistakable message of forgiveness. He was royally rewarded yesterday as Mr Reagan fully redeemed his pledge.

At Belsen, he paid fulsome tribute to the Chancellor and

his countrymen: "Your nation and the German people have been strong and resolute in your willingness to confront and condemn the acts of a hated regime of the past."

And at Bitburg air base, three miles from the cemetery, President Reagan again talked of hope emerging from the ashes of war.

Referring fleetingly to the criticism of his decision to go ahead with the Bitburg visit, he said: "I have received many letters since first deciding to come to Bitburg cemetery—some supportive, others deeply concerned and questioning,

others opposed. Some old wounds have been reopened, and this I regret very much, because this should be a time of healing."

To the veterans and families of American servicemen who still carry the scars and feel the painful losses of that war, our gesture of reconciliation with the German people today in no way minimises our love and honour for those who fought and died for our country. They gave their lives to rescue freedom in its darkest hour.

"The alliance of democratic nations that guards

Turn to back page, col. 1

Commons to be reassured on security in intelligence agency

Thatcher to reveal shake-up in MI5

By James Naughtie, Chief Political Correspondent

The biggest MI5 shake-up for more than 30 years, introducing tighter security procedures and an internal reorganisation, is likely to be announced by the Prime Minister this week.

A report commissioned after the conviction last year of Michael Bettaney, a security service officer, for trying to sell secrets to the Soviet Union has recommended fundamental changes in MI5's organisation and the vetting of its staff. MI5 will be told in the recommendations that most of the recommendations have been implemented, although few details will be given.

Official sources have refused to comment on the report, which has been at Downing Street for several weeks, but it is believed to be critical of the organisation which allowed Bettaney, now serving 23 years, to remove highly classified material from MI5 premises over a long period.

The reforms are believed to be internal. The fears in Whitehall intelligence circles of a "super agency" pulling together MI6, MI5, and SIS, have been realised.

The joint intelligence committee in the Cabinet office will continue to be the mechanism through which the agen-

des channel information to Downing Street and through which their activities are coordinated.

When Mrs Thatcher's statement for MPs is drawn up, it is likely to give few details of the recommendations in the report of inquiries chaired by Lord Bridge, chairman of the Security Commission.

But the Prime Minister will be aware that an announcement which simply gives an assurance that lapses in security have been corrected and weak organisation improved will lead to accusations of a whitewash—the traditional criticism of the Security Commission's work.

Mrs Thatcher's instinct in security matters has always been to launch an inquiry as soon as possible, and there are indications that she will give some strong hints about the shake-up in MI5's departments which is believed to be going on.

It is nearly a year since the inquiry was launched and Lord Bridge and his colleagues have examined evidence from hundreds of MI5 staff and officials, as well as interviewing Bettaney. It was made clear to the team by Mrs Thatcher that it was their duty to look beyond the case itself to any fundamental weaknesses in MI5's work and self-discipline.

There has been criticism in the past of its recruitment practices. The last Labour government asked to change what the then Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, saw as the service's bias towards public schools and Oxbridge, and there are indications in Whitehall that changes have recently been made—directed less at the background of recruits than at the efficiency of vetting procedures.

Ministers' concern at the efficiency of the service have been heightened by recent controversy over alleged improper surveillance—claims dismissed in another report by Lord Bridge—and the Prime Minister will be anxious to address the problem of reported low morale among staff when she speaks to the Commons.

The aim of the post-Bettaney Turn to back page, col. 7

This week

TODAY the Guardian begins a new series of political columns on its main feature page. In the regular Commentary slot, the political editor, Ian Aitken, argues that the future of the welfare state would be a serious problem for any government. Page 11.

Tomorrow: Hugo Young And in a new weekly column on the leader page, Geoffrey Taylor discusses Britain's contribution to European nuclear research. Page 10.

1945 and all that

"HELP has come", announced the radio in Prague, reported in the Guardian of May 1945. Today and tomorrow we continue our reprints from the Guardian's coverage of the last days of the second world war. Page 9.

And on Wednesday, the 40th anniversary of VE-Day, we shall publish a four-page supplement, with reports from our correspondents in France, Germany, Poland, the Soviet Union and the United States on what the war means in different countries today, together with a survey by Martin Gilbert, Churchill's biographer, of the years when Britain and Russia were allies.

Tomorrow

End game

Could there be an explosion in France like May 1968? Walter Schwarz reports from Paris on the talk of impending crisis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pledge to teachers

ALLIANCE councillors in England and Wales have pledged to end the teachers' dispute by breaking the 'fortress' grip on the Association of County Councils. Back page.

Fund saved

THE print union Sogat '82 has voted against retaining its political fund. Back page.

Remand row

IN a critical assessment of the prison remand system, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says that 145 people have been held in prison without trial for more than a year. Page 2.

Threat to sick

CANCER treatment for hundreds on Merseyside and in North Wales is threatened because health cuts have affected nursing care at a leading radiotherapy unit. Page 3.

Fury at French

THE failure of the Bonn summit to agree a date for a new round of trade liberalisation talks has left the Americans fuming at the 'French Page 4; Leader Comment, page 10.

Township siege

A COMBINED force of police and troops moved in to restore order in the black South African township of Kwanobuhle after raids on three policemen's homes. Page 5.

4 million Ethiopians without food because of lack of lorries

From Jonathan Steele in Addis Ababa

Only 3.7 million of almost 8 million famine victims in Ethiopia are receiving food from world donations because a huge backlog of grain has still not been shipped.

The report, by a committee representing international aid agencies here estimates that only 40 per cent of the grain shipped to Ethiopia has been handed out because of shortages of transport.

The findings, which are bound to shock the thousands who gave generously, are unpublished, but the UN plans to launch an international appeal today for \$50 million to help to transport the undelivered grain.

The committee does not blame the Ethiopian Government for the distribution failure, saying that Ethiopia only has available 40 per cent of lorries required and that they

are largely being put to good use.

The UN appeal, to be made today to donor governments, will call for money, new lorries, spares and tyres.

The appeal is strongly supported by voluntary agencies.

"We told the donors as long ago as September: don't just dump grain at Ethiopia's ports. Send less if necessary, but guarantee that it gets to people," Mr David Alexander, Thousands take refuge, page 5

Addis Ababa representative of the Save the Children Fund, said last night.

It was relatively easy for the US and the EEC to be seen to be making a gesture since they had large surpluses. But "without ensuring that transport was there, it was like giving an old man a sack that he too weak to carry," he added.

The problem of non-delivery of grain has been troubling voluntary agencies for some time, but for some time, but they hesitated to make it public. Without a clear programme for solving it, they were worried that it might discourage donations by the Western public at a time when they fear interest in the famine may be fading.

The UN programme has been worked out by a special unit attached to the office of Dr Kurt Jansson, assistant general secretary for emergency operations in Ethiopia. "We've had a very big response from the Western public. We've had a very easy response from Western governments, but we've got an unbalanced package, and now governments are going to have to spend money rather than push grain surpluses around," he said.

But the programme collides Turn to back page, col. 8

'See GP' warning by Legion hospital

By David Hearst

STAFFORD District Hospital last night that anyone suffering from flu-like symptoms, who had been an outpatient there between April 22 and May 3, or been discharged from it in the last two weeks should contact their doctor as soon as possible.

The hospital's warning came after scientists trying to trace the sources of Britain's worst outbreak of Legionnaire's disease said yesterday that it could have originated in one of the hospital's five air condition cooling towers.

About 3,500 people are thought to have been treated as outpatients in the period and the hospital are particularly keen to contact those over the age of 50. Symptoms listed in the hospital appeal were: fever, sweating, coughing or breathlessness.

Over the weekend two more suspected sufferers, aged 34 and aged 56, were admitted to the hospital, bringing the number of patients suspected of suffering from the disease in Staffordshire to 68.

Three of the 33 people who have been positively identified were in intensive care last night and said to be "very poorly." Twenty-nine patients have died in the outbreak.

An 86-year-old woman who died yesterday at the hospital was thought to be its thirty-third victim, but was later declared to have died from bronchial pneumonia.

Dr Spence Galbraith, director of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, said yesterday that almost all of the known cases investigated so far had been outpatients at the hospital within the incubation period of the disease, which ranged from two to 18 days.

His team are working on the theory that infected droplets of water condensing on the outside of a cooling tower could have been blown through the open windows of the out-patient's department.

Medical proof of this awaits the analysis of cultures grown from samples taken from the cooling towers.

Mr Jim Bartlett, general manager of the Mid Staffs Area Health Authority, said he was "devastated" that the hospital appeared to be implicated in the outbreak.

Mine kills 4 British children

Four British children have been killed by a mine explosion as they built sandcastles on a beach in Egypt.

The youngsters, whose families live in Egypt, were named last night as Keiron Riley, aged four, Phillip Bell, seven, Melissa Downs, six, and James Whitehead, six. It is understood that their fathers are employed on engineering contracts in Egypt.

The Foreign Office in London said yesterday that their relatives in Britain had been informed of the tragedy. It happened on Saturday on the El-Sokha beach, a popular camping area 120 miles east of Cairo and just south of the Suez Canal.

The beaches in the area were mined heavily during the Arab-Israeli Six-day War in June 1967, and in other wars in the region. They remain popular with day-trippers from the Egyptian capital despite previous incidents where undetected mines have exploded.

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The weather

BRIGHT but rather cold. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE			
Austria	26p	Greece	100p
Belgium	80p	Ireland	150p
Denmark	90p	Italy	2,000p
France	80p	Spain	170p
Germany	350p	Switzerland	30p

Winner Prost beaten by fine print



Alain Prost: first over the line

By our Sports Staff

THE fine print in the rule book reduced the San Marino motor racing grand prix to a farce yesterday when Alain Prost of France, was disqualified because his car was adjudged underweight two hours after he had apparently won the event.

Prost's McLaren used its last drops of petrol and shuddered to a halt on the slowing-down lap after the race, and his car was adjudged to be two kilos under the 50 kgs minimum weight limit.

In a dramatic sequel to a gripping race at Imola, Italy,

victory was awarded by the stewards to the Italian, Elio de Angelis, who had finished second in his Lotus, with the third-placed Thierry Boutsen, of Belgium, in his Arrow, being promoted to second place.

Prost himself had taken the race in remarkable fashion. He looked ready to settle for third place behind the Lotus of Brazil's Ayrton Senna and the Ferrari of the Swede, Stefan Johansson, with only three of the 80 laps remaining. But Senna, who had led throughout, suddenly slowed and appeared to have run out of fuel.

Boutsen also ran out of

petrol just before the finish and pushed his car, leaving it straddling the line. Rival teams alleged that he should be relegated in the order because the car had not completely crossed the line.

Johansson's car was understood not to have been parked up for the required hour after the race, and was apparently unavailable for scrutineering.

But the stewards decided against taking action in these cases, and Boutsen was credited with second place while Johansson moved to sixth to his first world championship point.

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Harman attacks proposal to privatise Ulster home helps

By Sarah Boseley

A proposal to abolish the home help service in Northern Ireland and replace it with individual grants would leave the elderly and needy in the lurch, Ms Harriet Harman, Labour's social services spokeswoman, said yesterday.

Ms Harman, who is tabling parliamentary questions on the proposal, said she feared that if the privatisation scheme was approved for Northern Ireland it would soon be adopted by Conservative-controlled councils on the mainland.

Such a scheme might be included in the green paper reviewing the work of the social services which is expected this summer, she added.

Abolition of home helps is proposed in a report from a joint working party of Northern Ireland's department of health and social security and its health and social services boards. After consultation ends on May 31, the Government will decide whether to accept the recommendations.

Their report, which criticises the service for high costs and administering "a part-time workforce receiving full terms and conditions of service," has been dismissed as "completely worthless, both as a piece of analysis and as a guide to policy."

Mr Bob Rowthorn, a reader in economics attached to King's College, Cambridge, who examined the report for the National Union of Public Employees, which represents the home helps, says it is misleading.

Far from rising, real expenditure for each recipient fell 37 per cent between 1975 and 1980, and a further 7 per cent between 1980 and 1983, he says.

The overall cost of the home help service has risen because the number of people in Northern Ireland receiving it has increased from 13,104 in 1975 to 28,023 in 1983.

Mr Rowthorn said yesterday that when he looked at the report's statistical calculations "I was just staggered by its incompetence. I would assume it was done very hurriedly and that it was designed to bolster

the case they have decided on."

Ms Harman said that she intended to raise Mr Rowthorn's criticisms in the Commons. NUP's regional organiser for Northern Ireland, Ms Inez McCormack, said that his conclusions testified to prejudice in the working party's seven assistant directors and one director of social services.

Miss McCormack said: "I regard the report as a matter of gross class prejudice, only matched by its gross incompetence. We are demanding the withdrawal of the report and an inquiry into the competence and motivation of the senior social services personnel who drew it up."

The working party's proposed grant scheme would provide a small safety net force, while the majority of people would be assessed by the social services and given a grant, to enable them to employ home help privately or through voluntary or commercial agency.

Critics of the scheme suggest that the old and frail might be unable to find and employ somebody trustworthy by themselves, and Ms Harman complained that there would be no checks on standards.

She added: "The new scheme is also clearly intended to undermine the pay and conditions of those who work as home helps."

Home helps in Northern Ireland earned less than £2 an hour but the report showed that the working party did not believe in a minimum wage, she said.

A Northern Ireland Office spokesman said that abolishing the home help system was only one of the working party's recommendations and that the Government's decision would take account of representations made by interested parties.

Fire kills boy

A two-year-old boy, James Hodges, died yesterday and his brother Christopher, aged eight months, was badly hurt when fire destroyed their caravan home at Druids Heath, Wyke, Leicestershire. The boys' parents, Barry and Jackie Hodges, and a neighbour were slightly hurt.

Tory Scots plan to give the PM a rough ride at this week's Perth conference

Thatcher faces rebellion over rates

By Jean Stead, Scottish Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher faces a sharp reverse in traditional Scottish Tories' loyalty, when she addresses their conference in Perth this week.

Tory support has wobbled disastrously in the country because of a rate revaluation which, combined with cuts in rates support grants, is making small businesses bankrupt and forcing some domestic ratepayers to sell their homes.

In some cases rateable values have risen to 10 times their previous levels. Over 40 resolutions on local agenda condemn the Government for failing to take promised action to reform the rates system.

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr George Younger, admitted yesterday on Scottish BBC TV that Tory support in Scotland has dropped sharply over the past two or three months because of the rates row and said: "We are going to sort it out — that is our job."

Mr Younger may announce a relief package at the conference. He has already found £90 million from national tax-

ation to moderate the impact on domestic rates.

But, with the Government review of rating reform likely to continue for some time yet, neither he nor Mrs Thatcher will be able to make a statement on reform at the conference. Mr Younger said they would be able to report on progress made by the review committee. All the signs so far are that opinion is moving in favour of some form of poll tax to replace rates.

The political row raging in Scotland is bringing public accusations of blame against the Government from Tory MPs and Tory councillors.

A poll, conducted for the Scotsman newspaper and published today, shows Tory support in Scotland has dropped by 6 per cent since last November. In answer to the question: "If there was a general election now how would you vote?" 22 per cent said Tory, compared with 28 per cent in November 1984.

Labour's share rose from 46 to 47 per cent, the Liberal SDP Alliance from 13 to 18 per cent and the Scottish National Party stayed the same at 13 per cent.

The Tory vote in Scotland has remained relatively stable since the 1979 election, with 21 MPs being returned at the last election compared with Labour's 42. Mr Younger yesterday dismissed the idea that Tories in the south wrote off Scotland as "expendable" in election terms.

The effects of revaluation are already showing up in council byelection results. Councillor Brian Meek, convenor of Lothian Regional Council and a Tory moderate, said: "Two local byelections have been lost because of the revaluation and we cannot continue like this."

Mr Younger told ratepayers, when the effects of revaluation started to hit them, that he understood their concern but would be unfair to deny the benefit of the new valuation to those who stood to gain.

"That would be seen as moving the goalposts in the middle of the game." The average in England, taken with water charges, was still higher than Scotland, he said. England has not had a property revaluation since 1973.

This did little to appease his

George Younger: "We will sort it out."

Tory critics, who have become increasingly vociferous. The revaluation has hit hard in the Tory heartlands of Perth, where Councillor Ross MacFarrland, formerly convenor of the general purposes committee on the local council, has been beating the drum against rate support grant cuts by the Secretary of State.

"We started with a very low base and then had 50 per cent of our grant cut. It was unfair," he said. "We cut our

expenses to the bone and we have been penalised."

"We are certainly expecting an announcement about rates that will help out position at the Tory conference."

An indication of the tightness in the Tory ranks was the public official complaint made to the BBC by the chairman of the Scottish Tories after Mr Younger had been criticised by presenters on BBC/TV for refusing to take part in a phone-in about rates last Wednesday night. There were over 30,000 calls, most of them blaming the Government for rate increases, which jammed the Scottish telephone system for an hour.

In answer to the complaint the controller of BBC Scotland, Mr Patrick Chalmers, offered to withdraw the TV cameras from this week's Tory conference.

There are strong indications that the Tory review body examining the rates system are moving towards some type of poll tax. Senior Tories in Scotland are confident that there will be an announcement soon. They expect the new system to be universal throughout the UK rather than to run on a trial basis in Scotland.

Two documents put out recently — one from the local government advisory committee and the other by Michael Forsyth, MP for Stirling, for the Conservative Political Centre — both come down heavily in favour of poll tax. Mr Forsyth admits the drawbacks of being that a poll tax would fall very heavily on those with low incomes. It would probably have to be led up to the local electoral register, which would mean that penalties would have to be imposed for failing to register.

But the average adult payment would be only £155 a year. A slightly higher estimate of £175 per head, on average, is given in the local government committee document.

A public inquiry by the Secretary of State is pending into the Labour-controlled Edinburgh district council's decision to raise its rate by 79 per cent.

The Labour Stirling council faces a default order and is likely to be brought to court over breaking its rate guidelines.

OBITUARY

Inventor of bridge 'that won the war'

Sir Donald Bailey: spent boyhood making bridges

SIR DONALD Bailey, the inventor of the Bailey bridge which played a crucial role in the Allied victory in the Second World War, died yesterday in hospital. He was 88. The movable military bridge was used in the Normandy landings and carried Allied troops, tanks, and guns over rivers and gorges in Europe. Field-Marshal Montgomery said: "Without the Bailey bridge we should not have won the war."

Sir Donald, who spent much of his boyhood making model bridges from pieces of wood and string, was modest about his achievement saying that it was just part of his job as a civil engineer. When his knighthood was announced in 1946 and a toast was proposed to him he replied: "I think the toast should be to the men who put the Bailey bridges up."

Sir Donald's bridge, assembled from welded panels linked by pinned joints and made of steel, came in light units easily carried by a few men. Montgomery said: "It was the best thing in that line we ever had."

Sir Donald was born in 1901 in Yorkshire. He was educated at the Leeds, Cambridge, and took an engineering degree at the University of Sheffield. He joined the Civil Service in 1928 and was posted to the experimental bridging staff of the army at Christchurch, Hampshire.

The War Office accepted the invention in 1941 and all the only experimental work was tried out in the drawing office and workshops of the Christchurch establishment.

Catholic shot near Belfast 'peace line'

From Paul Johnson

A 29-year-old Roman Catholic was seriously ill in a Belfast hospital last night, after a sectarian shooting.

The attack on the father of three took place early yesterday outside his home in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast. Two men, one carrying a rifle and the other a hand gun, crossed the so-called peace line which separates Catholic and Protestant housing estates.

They opened fire on a group of Catholics standing about 50 yards away.

The wounded man was hit in the chest by a burst of automatic fire. Police later found 14 spent bullet cases at the scene. Last night, they were questioning two men.

Two policemen on foot patrol in Omagh, County Tyrone, escaped injury yesterday, when a bomb hidden behind a wall was detonated as they passed.

More than 3,000 people marched along the Falls Road, west Belfast, yesterday to mark the anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes at the Maze prison in which 10 people died. They gathered in Andersonstown, to hear a Sinn Féin Assembly member, Mr James McAllister, deny reports that there was any division between Sinn Féin and its military wing, the IRA.

Mr McAllister told the crowd that a black propaganda campaign was being mounted against the Republican movement, adding: "I am quite sure that the RUC is not quite dead but believe for a minute that the IRA is going soft or giving over resources for election purposes."

At the mention of Newry

where nine RUC officers were killed in a IRA mortar attack early this year, cheering and clapping broke out.

Sean MacStiofain, IRA chief of staff between 1969 and 1972, yesterday denied a story carried by the Sunday Times naming him as a police informer. During his period as chief of staff, when he was said to have been passing information to the police, 31 policemen and 176 soldiers were killed in Ulster, almost all of them by the IRA.

Mr William Homan, the 50-year-old Protestant shot dead last week outside his secluded home by a masked gunman, was buried yesterday in Leltrim, County Down.

A special fund has been set up for his 12-year-old son, Sammy, who is now an orphan. It is thought that Mr Homan, a driver for the Environment Department, was mistaken for someone else.

Joe Joyce, in Dublin, adds to the use of "supergrasses" at non-jury trials in Northern Ireland was criticised at the weekend by Miss Geraldine Ferraro, the former US vice presidential candidate.

After hearing part of the evidence given by a Loyalist informer, William "Budgie" Allen, in Belfast on Friday, she told a press conference in Dublin that this was a method of trial that American lawyers might see as a breach of civil rights.

Miss Ferraro criticised the fact that up to 25 people at a time were being tried on the uncorroborated evidence of an informer. But her main criticism was that one judge tried cases.

IAN MEADOWS (above) last night won the 1985 final of BBC television's Mastermind contest. Mr Meadows, aged 29, a hospital driver in Leicester, became the 13th Mastermind by scoring 16 points in his specialised subject, the English Civil War, 1642-47, and 14 in general knowledge.

NCCL ginger group formed

By Martin Linton

ONE of the first repercussions of the row inside the National Council for Civil Liberties seems likely to be formation of a new ginger group, the Libertarian Alliance, which will try to push the organisation towards a more "non-partisan" approach.

The former NCCL general secretary, Mr Larry Gostin, who resigned this week, is expected to join the new group. But the main impetus is coming from Mr Ron Lacey, campaign director of Mind, and a leading supporter of Mr Gostin in the battle which erupted at the NCCL's annual meeting last week.

The ginger group is still at a discussion stage, but it is clearly envisaged as a pressure group working within the NCCL and not in any sense as an alternative or possible rival organisation.

The nucleus would come from members of the NCCL inquiry into the miners' strike who resigned last week after the annual meeting refused to endorse their interim report, which recognised the right to work as well as to strike.

But the broader issue would be whether the NCCL should concern itself solely with civil liberties issues, or should try to be an all-party organisation helping people from all shades of the political spectrum.

The new group's steering committee includes members of all the main parties — Mr Alex Carlile, the Liberal MP, Clive Landa, a member of the Conservative Party; Mr Lacey, and Mr Ian Martin, head of the Asian section of Amnesty International, who are Labour Party members.

Mr Lacey said last night: "We're not moving the NCCL to the right. We're trying to make it non-partisan."

The parliamentary civil liberties group, set up on the initiative of the NCCL and including MPs of all parties, met last week to discuss their attitude to the organisation in the wake of Mr Gostin's resignation, with a number of Conservative MPs pressing for a clean break.

Rolls sell-off reports denied by Vickers

By Maggie Brown

Reports that the Rolls-Royce Motor Company was to be sold by the Vickers Engineering Group were emphatically denied last night by the company's finance director, Mr Tom Neville.

"It is totally untrue," he said. "Rolls-Royce is a valued mainstay business for us."

His denial came as it was revealed that a strategic 5.4 per cent stake has been built up in Vickers by the American financier, Mr Saul Steinberg.

Mr Steinberg, whose wealth is based on a conglomerate of insurance companies valued at around \$3 billion, is known for his financial trading and a tactic called "greenmail". For example, he recently bought 14 per cent of Walt Disney shares and made a substantial profit by selling them back to the parent company.

His stake in Vickers could be interpreted as just another investment for him, said Mr Neville. However, it could also signal the eventual change in ownership of the entire group.

Vickers has been viewed as a potential takeover target for at least two years. Several creditors such as Hawker Siddeley and Guest Keen and Nettlefold are known to have looked it over, recognising the scope for selling off businesses it already owns such as the Crew-based Rolls-Royce.

Mr Neville says there have been signs that North America has been starting to invest in Vickers when they saw the success of the Jaguar car company quotation last year.

Alternatively, Mr Steinberg, who bought the £11 million shareholding last Friday, may be gambling on the outcome of Vickers' multi-million-pound claim for improved government compensation for its nationalised, aerospace and ship-building assets.

The final hearing of the eight-year case, before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, is fixed for June 24.

Vickers' aerospace assets, when nationalised in 1977 for \$45 million, went on to form a major portion of the now-privatised British Aerospace. Its warship building yard, at Barrow in Furness, is also up for sale to the private sector.

Vickers has always played down the hopes of an eventual pay-out. The company's shares, trading at their year's high of 275 pence on Friday, have increased by up to 30p in recent months as compensation hopes were raised, putting a £300-million takeover price tag on the company.

Vickers bought Rolls-Royce Motor Company in 1980 after the chequered career which followed the collapse of the parent Rolls-Royce company in 1978.

More specifically, the statement said that he was expected to win seven or eight of the unions' 11 regions. He was certain to hold on to his five he held last time, including London, the South-west, the North-west, Scotland and Ireland. To this, the statement said, could now be added the North-east and Yorkshire.

A spokesman for the group, who refused to be named, said the statement had not been put out with Mr Todd's authority but was based on a view held by many rank and file members that he would win the election handsomely.

Under union rules there is nothing to stop a campaign of this nature. It was adopted in the press during the previous campaign, with some effect, and forecasts of Mr Todd's eventual victory were made before the final count.

Mr Todd is the general secretary-elect, and has asked for a new ballot in order to clear the union's name of balloting irregularities. His opponent, Mr George Wright, reacted to last night's statement by saying: "For Todd and I are agreed that we should fight the campaign on the issues and not on other aspects."

Therefore, I would hope that groups of people detached totally from us would not put out statements on behalf of either of us. He would make no further comment.

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In-fighting begins in transport union poll

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The political infighting began in earnest last night in the re-run election for the next general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

With a week to go before balloting, a group calling itself the Ron Todd Supporters' Group issued a statement in which it was claimed that the great majority of TGWU members were united behind Mr Todd.

It said that Mr Todd would get the overwhelming vote of confidence in his leadership and in the union that he had asked for.

More specifically, the statement said that he was expected to win seven or eight of the unions' 11 regions. He was certain to hold on to his five he held last time, including London, the South-west, the North-west, Scotland and Ireland. To this, the statement said, could now be added the North-east and Yorkshire.

A spokesman for the group, who refused to be named, said the statement had not been put out with Mr Todd's authority but was based on a view held by many rank and file members that he would win the election handsomely.

Under union rules there is nothing to stop a campaign of this nature. It was adopted in the press during the previous campaign, with some effect, and forecasts of Mr Todd's eventual victory were made before the final count.

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Remand prisoner numbers up 26pc

By Aileen Ballantyne

The number of remand prisoners has risen by 26 per cent in the past year, and the average time an accused person spends in gaol awaiting trial is over seven weeks in England and Wales, according to a report published today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of offenders.

The report, whose figures have been confirmed as accurate by the Home Office, points out that on January 31 this year, 145 people had been held in prison without trial for over a year, and 2,365 had been in gaol for over three months.

Such prisoners, presumed innocent in law before trial, are being subjected for over long periods to conditions which are among the worst in the prison system, the report argues.

The average daily number of remand prisoners in March last year was 7,633. A year later the number had risen 26 per cent to 9,653.

A Home Office spokesman said it was concerned at the time spent on remand and the numbers involved. Experiments on setting a remand time limit would begin in late autumn.

Limits of 40 days for summary offences and 110 days for more serious offences have operated in Scotland for over a century.

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, said last month that of 56 cases where the defendant was held in gaol for over 110 days, the largest group, 25 per cent, were due to pending related cases, 17 per cent because of witness delays, and 9 per cent because of defence delays.

The spokesman added that in the past month, after a commitment by Lord Hailsham to increase circuit judge numbers by 10 per cent, the number of judges had gone up from 340 to 375.

The Nacro report argues that as many people are committed to custody as are compatible with the public's protection should be bailed, since a defendant refused bail loses earnings, may lose his job, and his family may suffer.

Nacro argues that a defendant in custody is also at a disadvantage preparing for trial. A bailed defendant can be interviewed at the solicitor's office, and is free to trace witnesses and collect evidence.

Nacro's report is the latest in a series of highly critical assessments of the remand system. In 1980 the Criminal Bar Association suggested that the lack of remand limits in England and Wales unlike most common law systems meant that there was no real prospect for speedy trial.

Last year the all-party Commons home affairs committee observed: "Overcrowding is at its worst, and conditions are at their most squalid, in the local prisons and remand centres in which remand prisoners are housed."

A Tory Reform Group report this year noted that over 40 per cent of people remanded did not later receive a custodial sentence.

Bail and Remand in Custody, Nacro, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU.

Princess quits post

Princess Margaret is to retire as Chancellor of Keele University in Staffordshire next February after 30 years in office, it was announced yesterday.

The Princess was involved in a controversy at the university when she visited last year not to invite her to one of the major hall after Special Branch detectives had asked for a list of militant students when she attended a previous social function.

1520 1520

Concern at confidential report on radiotherapy unit's staffing

Cuts may delay treatment for cancer patients

By David Hencke.

Social Services Correspondent

Cancer treatment for hundreds of people in Merseyside and North Wales may have to be postponed because health cuts are undermining the quality of nursing at one of the main radiotherapy units.

Confidential reports compiled by the Royal College of Nursing disclose serious staff deficiencies at the 168-bed Clatterbridge Hospital radiotherapy unit in Bebington, in the Wirral.

Nursing staff are alarmed that for the past year there has been inadequate supervision, particularly at night, of patients undergoing chemotherapy with highly toxic drugs which can have serious side-effects such as kidney failure.

They are also unhappy that closing wards at weekends to save money means seriously ill people are regularly moved from ward to ward.

The unit, run by Wirral health authority for the Mersey region, last year treated 3,700 patients from Cheshire, Merseyside, North Wales and the Isle of Man. Another 1,000 people were treated as day patients.

The report, which is not denied by the health authority, says: "On many evenings there are only one qualified nurse and one auxiliary to care for those patients on the wards."

"The stress levels of members in this unit are high and there is a great risk of staff developing a burn-out syndrome."

The report adds that on one night there was one sister to cover 145 patients in the radiotherapy unit and 19 younger disabled patients.

"The sister was on call in case of emergencies, to mix intravenous infusions, check controlled drugs and relieve staff for dinner break."

Her main support at the time were unqualified or newly trained nurses, often one to a ward. The unit also

has a shortage of junior doctors says the report. "Over one weekend," the doctor covering the radiotherapy unit was a locum who was a general practitioner trainee with no radiotherapy experience. It was reported by the senior sister on the surgical unit that this doctor visited her ward in tears as he was concerned about the responsibility placed upon him."

After the weekend ward closes to save money, the report says, on some occasions "patients have died within hours of being moved."

A statement from Wirral health authority, with the support of the Royal College of Nursing, says the unit's running is a matter for "major concern."

The authority says that an extra £120,000 was given to the unit this year but the money had already been spent on expensive drugs for chemotherapy.

As yet there has been no indication that there is any money to provide extra nurses. Nurses have been working under extreme pressure for a long time and have constantly highlighted their worries to management, who agree that there is a need for more nurses for the vitally important and highly technical field of nursing."

The authority warns of difficulties in maintaining the present level of service. "It is clear that the technical advances that have been made in the treatment of cancer, which require more positive nursing involvement, are being put under considerable pressure, due to the number of nurses available now not matching the considerable expansion in the types of treatment being undertaken."

The Royal College of Nursing has regretted the leaking of the reports because it agreed with the health authority to keep the matter secret.

A £180,000 computer is being installed to improve cervical cancer screening in Staffordshire.

Ecologists in Scotland fight ski slope plans

By Jean Slead

ECOLOGISTS in Scotland are fighting plans to develop more ski slopes, which threaten rare wildlife.

At Glen Shee, Tayside, plans for a ski lift are being fought. It would intrude on a designated nature reserve which the Nature Conservancy Council says is an important area for upland breeding of rare birds, including the golden plover and the dotterel. The Government-funded council oppose plans whenever they threaten rare wildlife.

The Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, originally promised to take a decision on the Glen Shee proposal by June, but has now asked all the parties involved to study a new development plan.

Scottish skiing draws few tourists from abroad and the skiers are split about 50-50 between the Scots and the rest of the British. But the Scots are increasingly a skiing nation, and it has become a relatively cheap sport for them. Even the long queues for the lifts do not discourage them, and at Cairngorm research is going on into the development of artificial snow.

Cairngorm, near Aviemore, has seen a 13 per cent increase in skiers this season, and the total is 60 per cent higher than five years ago. Scotland as a whole is seeing a 10 per cent yearly growth in skiing and with growth in Scotland a rare thing these days, the conservationists are seen as almost wilfully unpatriotic.

The trust which runs the Cairngorm chair lift company is still bitter about the refusal by the Scottish Office three years ago to allow it to develop ski slopes in the neighbourhood of Lurchers Gully, after a long public inquiry. But plans for a new ski lift at Cairngorm are unlikely to be opposed by the Nature Conservancy Council.

The Scottish National Ski Council is determined to get more runs opened, and has the support of the Ski Club of Great Britain. There are plans for new slopes near Fort William which could accommodate as many skiers as the Cairngorms.

Planning permission is also awaited on other developments, including the present barren and unimproving slopes of Glenree. Envious eyes are being cast at the go-ahead being given by the Secretary of State to ambitious downhill skiing development at Glen Gully in the Drumochter Pass south of Cairngorm.

Father may sue over boy's death in hospital

A policeman is threatening to sue Wexler regional health authority over the death of his son after a minor operation. Alexander Bracher, aged nine, of Bedhampton, Hampshire, died in Southampton General Hospital after routine tests to check that he had recovered from leukaemia, which he had developed two years earlier.

The test showed that he was cured, but Alexander died three weeks later after suffering a heart attack, brain damage and kidney failure.

Detective Constable Paul Bracher believes something went wrong during the operation. He said yesterday: "We are very angry and upset. We have placed the matter in the hands of our solicitor."

An inquest into Alexander's death was told that during routine removal of a piece of liver tissue for testing, the surgeon's needle had probably perforated the biliary tract. A Home Office pathologist, Dr Horace Kousar, said Alexander had died from bronchial pneumonia and cardiac arrest caused by peritonitis, which set in after the liver biopsy.

Dr Neil Freeman, the consultant paediatric surgeon, who performed the surgery, told the inquest that as far as he was concerned the operation had gone well. "There is always a risk in any form of surgery, in this type of operation, the death rate is very low, 0.015 per cent."

The Southampton coroner, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

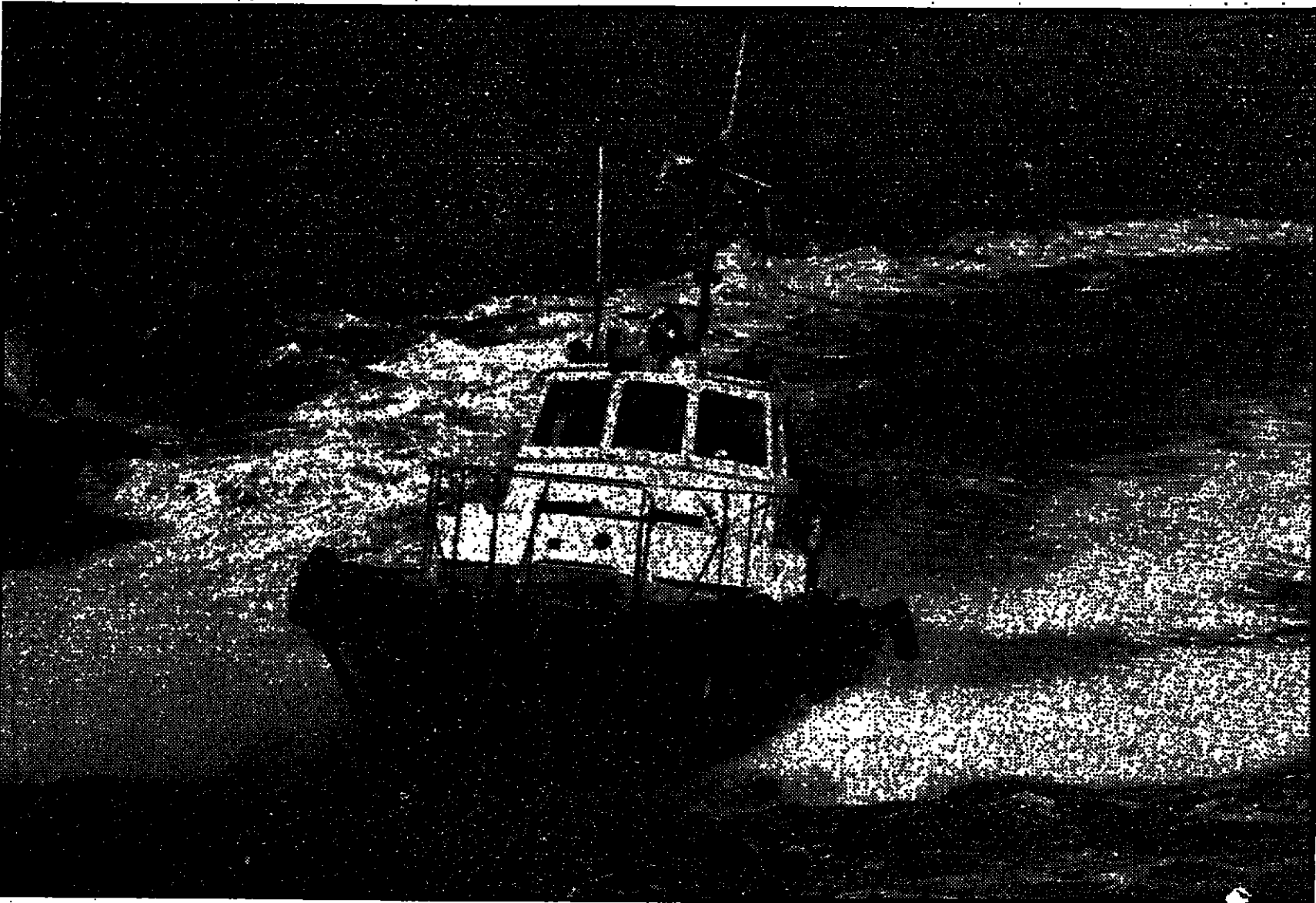
New world for symphony orchestra

Will Bristol cream off Bournemouth's musical talent?

PROPOSALS to move the permanent home of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to Bristol and change its name to the Bristol Symphony Orchestra have been gaining support during the past few days among likely financial backers.

Talks about money begin in earnest this week between Bristol Corporation and the Eastern Orchestral Society, which manages the BSO and the smaller Bournemouth Sinfonietta, which may also move. The society says it needs £750,000 to make the transfer and a further £250,000 a year.

The Arts Council, which is contributing £275,000 this year to the two orchestras, is warmly advocating the move. The South-west Concerts Board, which channels grants of £450,000 from local authorities, is also behind it and one of Bristol's biggest



A Humber pilot vessel and (below) Mr Brian Wright, one of those who feared that government plans threaten safety.

Pictures by Denis Thorpe

Pilots set collision course on policy change

Malcolm Pithers on how Humber men are gearing up to protect their service

The small band of pilots who have to guide vessels from the North Sea into the river Humber, the busiest estuary in the country, are to fight government plans to alter their service drastically.

The pilots, who follow a tradition dating back to 1504, say that if the proposals go ahead the Humber will become hazardous in the extreme.

A Government green paper is proposing cost-cutting measures which will mean that the pilots, traditionally self-employed, will be taken over by the Associated British Ports organisation, with no compulsory pilotage in the estuary.

Pilotage services have been under review for some time. Pilots throughout the country say they are not opposed to change and that numbers might well be reduced. But the Humber men point out that they have moved from a sea-based cutter to a shore-based and now operate probably the most advanced radar water service in the country from Spurn Point.

The green paper claims that the existing organisation is "cumbersome and complicated," and that productivity is low. The pilots deny this. But the Government is determined to streamline the service, particularly in London,



Manchester and Liverpool, and 600 pilots may lose their jobs.

The Humber men claim that they are the most efficient body of pilots in Europe. There are 136 pilots along the Humber, with a further 28 on the river Trent and 28 in Goole.

The Humber mouth is recognised as one of the most difficult estuaries in the country. Six men mount a 24-hour pilot service from the £2 million shore base, which has eight vessels. They work on a standby basis so that any vessel can be given a pilot almost immediately.

The men's income, traditionally calculated in relation

to the number of vessels moved, now averages £16,800 a year. This system has operated for 25 years, and the pilots say that being self-employed heightens their commitment.

Government sources say that for at least 12 years the pilot system has not been working satisfactorily, and

there have been several studies and reports. It had been thought that the costs of the service would be shared by ship-owners, the pilots and the Government, but the Government says there is no justification for using public funds and it is not empowered to pay compensation to the men.

Government advisers say that it would seem logical to impose compulsory pilotage on certain vessels, but the pilots argue that, particularly in the Humber unless ships masters have a pilot's certificate, all movements should be made with a pilot on board. The men say that more and more Panamanian-registered ships are using the Humber, and their masters are often overworked and tired.

Mr Paul Hames, the pilots' representative on the Humber, says: "This is the safest estuary in Europe, precisely because pilotage is compulsory. We fear that if the docks board takes over we will end up with a costlier system and a far less effective service."

A few days ago, two pilots, Mr David Richardson and Mr John Bridgeman, turned out to pilot two tankers into the Humber in a 60-knot wind. Mr Richardson said later: "Really, we are doing something like landing a jumbo jet—the only difference is that ships of the size we deal with cannot stop as easily. A slight miscalculation would cause a tremendous amount of damage. We simply want to change the Government's mind."

Church urges checks into Christian anti-semitism

By Marilyn Halsall, Churches Correspondent

A check list to prevent Christian anti-semitism is today published by the Church of Scotland, with a call for congregations to establish links with local Jewish communities.

A report from the Board of World Mission and Unity, to be discussed by the general assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh later this month recommends that anti-semitic activities or propaganda should be reported to central Kirk authorities.

Nine questions test Kirk members on their knowledge of local Jewish congregations, their theological education and possible instances of discrimination.

Church members are urged to check for concealed anti-semitism — as in admission policies to local organisations — evidence of extremist groups like the National Front and local instances of anti-Zionism concealing anti-semitic tendencies.

Congregations should consider sharing activities with Jewish groups, the report suggests. "The Christian Church, particularly from the fourth century, played a central role in creating and encouraging anti-semitism," it says.

Parts of the New Testament could give a negative impression of Judaism as "rigid, ritualised, legalistic and dominated by the high priests."

The report also questions the level of support by Church of Scotland congregations to Jewish prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union.

Toll bridge for sale

ONE OF Britain's strangest tax havens has been put on the open market for the first time in 200 years for £275,000—the Swinford toll bridge over the Thames at Eynsham, near Oxford. Ownership constitutes a tax haven because the income from tolls is exempt from taxes.

There has been a river crossing at Swinford since Saxon times and a ferry was operated by two of the large Benedictine abbeys in the area in the late 13th century.

The family of the Earl of Abingdon owned the bridge between 1765 and 1980, when it was again sold privately. At present care has to pay 2p to cross the bridge, and lorries up to 16p.

This is Sarah. She thinks her name is 'Oi'.

'Oi' is all her parents have ever called her. As if that wasn't tragic enough, there were no toys in the house. Sarah was underweight and not properly clothed.

In fact, when the NSPCC called at the house, Sarah rushed to embrace the inspector. She knew help had arrived.

The NSPCC's task now is to provide help. And with 100 years of practice in cases like this, there's every chance we'll succeed.

But first we have to ensure protection for Sarah. And that can cost £15.48 for two weeks.

If you can send all or part of that sum it'll be used immediately to help children.

Putting your name on the coupon below is the surest way of helping Sarah remember hers.

I would like to help protect a child, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £15.48. Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No.

Signature

Name

Address

Postcode

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilmore, NSPCC, Ed. 50325, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

NSPCC

US flags burned during Madrid march by 500,000

Anti-Reagan protests in Spain erupt into violence

From Jane Walker in Madrid

An estimated 500,000 people demonstrated yesterday against President Reagan's visit here in one of the biggest displays of anti-American sentiment seen in the Spanish capital.

Other demonstrations were staged across the country protesting at the two-day visit, starting today. Protesters demanded Spain's immediate withdrawal from Nato and attacked Mr Reagan's Central American policies.

The demonstrations were mainly good humoured, although there were scattered incidents. The worst was in Madrid when marchers threw petrol bombs and rocks at the glass front of the conservative opposition Popular Alliance Party, whose leader, Mr Manuel Fraga, was yesterday proclaimed Mr Reagan a "great and good friend." Several windows and a door were smashed.

Police and demonstrators clashed in the northern city of San Sebastian, where in Barcelona protesters broke down the door of the US consulate and sprayed the building with slogans.

US flags and emblems of Mr Reagan were burned during demonstrations across the country.

Crowds taking part in the Madrid demonstration, organised by leftwing parties and pacifist groups, marched three miles through the streets to the Plaza Colon, the square named after Christopher Columbus.

"Why did you do it? Why did you discover America?" demonstrators chanted to loud applause.

Others called President Reagan "assassin" and "fascist murderer." A poster read, "If you like Nazi cemeteries so much, why don't you stay there?" the crowd repeatedly yelled. "Nato no. Bases out."

A group of Nicaraguans, who carried a large banner reading "Nicaragua will triumph," were loudly cheered and two of them climbed the 100-foot Columbus column to fly their red and black flag. At least five US flags were burned during the demonstration.

President Reagan is arriving at a time when anti-American feeling in Spain is running high. The Spanish Government issued a strongly worded communiqué last week condemning the US trade embargo against Nicaragua, and a recent opinion poll shows that 74 per cent of Spaniards believe that Mr Reagan's arms policy endangers peace and brings the possibility of war closer.

During his 40 hours in Madrid, the President will devote his time to what one observer describes as "39 hours of public relations and one hour of politics." He is to have two brief meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, and will have an informal lunch with him.

He will also deliver an important speech to an invited audience at an economic and cultural foundation—his first public statement after the Bonn summit.

King Juan Carlos will host a state banquet in the royal palace and Mr Reagan will meet the opposition leader, Mr Fraga.

Mr Gonzalez has said he will discuss reviewing the number of US troops based in Spain, now totalling 12,500—under a bases agreement. "We see them as foreign troops on our territory," he said.

He says he favours Nato membership, but without integration in the military structure. "I see no need for it," he said. "It would not add or take anything away."

A poll published here yesterday shows that growing numbers of people disagree with the Government and favour leaving the Alliance: 54 per cent say they want Spain out as opposed to 51 per cent at the end of last year, with only 19 per cent wanting to stay in.

Nato gets warning on Star Wars

BRUSSELS: President Reagan's Star Wars programme could cause serious divisions in the Western alliance, according to reports by Nato parliamentarians published yesterday.

The reports to the North Atlantic Assembly by 14 MPs from Britain, Canada, the US, and West Germany say that the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) could drive political, military, and technological wedges between Nato countries.

The assembly, grouping 184 parliamentarians from the 16 issues. The reports will form the basis for discussion at a session in Stuttgart later this month.

A study by a British member, Mr David Clark, says that far from reassuring the public about nuclear weapons, "the consequences of SDI have in fact created new problems."

"It is to be hoped that the United States will see that the political disadvantages of giving the Soviets the upper hand in the public aspect of negotiations will outweigh the still unclear advantages of SDI," he said.

France became the first important Nato ally at the weekend to refuse a US invitation to join the \$26-billion research project, Norway and Denmark have also declined.

Another Britain, Mr Bruce George, in a report on the political implications of SDI, called it "a perfect public relations disaster for the Soviet Union."

There was apprehension on both sides of the Atlantic that Moscow would try to divide Nato by offering an attractive proposal to cut medium-range and strategic missiles tied to US cessation of Star Wars, he said.

"Some allies and certainly large elements of public opinion find themselves in the uncomfortable position of being less than fully supportive of the SDI, even at the research stage, because of the results to which it might lead," he said.

"A situation must not occur in which the Geneva talks would be seen by Western Europe to fall only because of the US refusal to limit SDI development."

In Moscow, the Soviet Defence Minister, Mr Sergei Sokolov, has told the US that its space weapons systems could end all possibilities of arms agreements and it must show more flexibility if progress is to be achieved.

"We want the United States to understand the Soviet stand at the Geneva negotiations and answer with reciprocity," Mr Sokolov said in a lengthy interview with Tass.

Mr Sokolov denied that the Soviet Union was working on space-based weapons, but said that continuing American efforts would force Moscow to develop its own programme and at the same time begin a new build-up of its strategic nuclear forces.

The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, last night accused the US of "provoking the West of staking all on gaining military superiority and thus pushing the world 'to the brink of nuclear catastrophe'."

Speaking at a Moscow meeting of Second World War and labour veterans, Mr Gorbachev added that the Russians "do not consider war fatally inevitable."



President Reagan leaves the podium at Belsen in reflective mood yesterday while later at Bitburg police push back demonstrators from his motorcade route

Summit fails to bridge Gatt gap

Christopher Huhne and Derek Brown in Bonn assess the failure of European leaders to set a date for a new round of trade liberalisation talks.

Leaders of the world's seven biggest industrial democracies were yesterday assessing the damage done by their failure at the Bonn summit to agree on a date for a new round of trade liberalisation talks.

France's veto of the only firm proposal at the summit has embarrassed President Reagan as he continued a European tour already hurt by public relations disasters.

For the first time in the history of 11 world economic summits, the leaders were unable to paper over their differences on a key issue: the start of a new trade in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

The failure left the American delegation fuming at the French veto. President Reagan said he was "disappointed" that the summit failed to help stave off the growing pile of protectionist tariff and other bills in the US Congress. A senior administration official said bitterly that Franco-American relations were sometimes better understood by psychologists than diplomats.

President Mitterrand was calm and unrepentant at his press conference. He said that he was busy looking after the interests of France "and I'm not responsible for defending each country against itself."

He also declared himself unwilling to take part in the US Star Wars research initiative and was critical of the US trade embargo on Nicaragua.

The prospect of the US Congress sparking a new trade war most worries the Japanese, whose exporters have done well in the American market thanks to the uncompetitive strength of the dollar.

The summit's economic communiqué states clearly that "most of us think that (a new Gatt round) should be in 1986." Even the Italians, who

Torture victims testify in trial

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

The victims of kidnapping and torture after the armed forces seized power in Argentina have begun to testify in the trial of nine top officers charged with "dirty war" against the population.

Called as witnesses in the public trial of former President Jorge Videla and other officers who held prominent positions in the regime, the ordinary and the famous have lifted the veil on the grim realities of life for anyone touched by the military's campaign of state terror in defence of "Western Christian values."

One woman, a physics teacher now in her late 30s, told how she was taken away after suddenly finding herself surrounded by her house by about 10 armed men. Mrs Adriana Calvo de Laborda, the first person to return from the lists of the missing, was lucky. She was six and a half months pregnant when she was kidnapped in 1977.

She was not tortured, she testified, but she was kept in the back of a police car taking her from one secret jail to another.

Other witnesses related how a nurse and a midwife at a hospital in northern Argentina disappeared after informing the family of a missing woman she had been brought in by police to give premature birth to a baby girl.

A hospital director had decided the birth, but it was admitted by several doctors and apart from a reference to the birth which had been scratched out of the hospital register, there was no record of what happened to the baby. The mother was taken away afterwards and never seen again, she said.

Mr Ramon Miralles, the Economy Minister in Buenos Aires Province under the elected Peronist Government, overthrown in the 1976 coup, told how all his immediate family had been taken and sent in what seemed to be an attempt to find incriminating evidence on the former.

Mr Miralles said that he was stripped, handcuffed to a wire mesh, and doused with water while he was tortured with electrical probes in "even the most unimaginable places."

He said that while he was being held in a clandestine jail, he saw not only General Ramon Camps, then head of police in Buenos Aires Province and now being held on human rights charges, but also two well-known journalists kidnapped by the regime.

One was Mr Rafael Perrotta, the still missing editor of El Cronista Comercial, the business daily that suffered most under the regime and lost nine members of its journalistic staff. The other was Mr Jacobo Timerman, who followed Mr Miralles on to the witness stand.

Mr Timerman, who today edits La Razon newspaper, but in those days owned the left wing La Opinion and who wrote a best-selling book about his experiences before the regime released him under international pressure and expelled him from Argentina in 1979, also directed much of his testimony at General Camps.

Mr Timerman said that his mission in jail to bring a Jewish Zionist and Socialist prompted the "paranoic and Nazi" imagination of General Camps into thoughts of staging an "exemplary trial."

Before he was arrested, Mr Timerman added, the regime repeatedly complained about his newspaper publishing details of Habeas corpus writs filed on behalf of missing people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farm talks to collapse

LUXEMBOURG: Talks on fixing European Community farm prices for the 1985-86 year look set to break up in failure today, the British Agriculture Minister, Mr Michael Jopling, said.

The British minister, who has been taking part with other farm ministers of the 10-nation bloc in a final attempt to agree on price cuts, told reporters he expected the talks to collapse soon. "I'm off to pack my bags," he said.—Reuter.

New air service

BRITAIN and Singapore have agreed to start a new direct service between Manchester and Singapore. Singapore Airlines will operate up to three times a week on the new route, and Britain may fly three additional flights a week and may nominate more than one airline on the route, the Singapore aviation authorities announced.—Reuter.

Missionary shot

GUNMEN shot and killed an American missionary at his home in Lima's suburbs on Saturday night. Mr Thomas Brown was said to have been shot while trying to prevent the kidnapping of one of his children.—AP.

Ship seized

ANTWERP port authorities have seized a ship belonging to Greenpeace after a firm claimed \$250,000 damages for being prevented from dumping chemicals at sea. The vessel Sirius has been used to blockade a lock in Antwerp harbour, preventing the Waddi Tanker from sailing to dump its toxic load in the North Sea off Belgium.—Reuter.

Aid sought

BANGLADESH will seek \$1.8 billion in aid from 14 Western countries and five international agencies at talks in Paris this week. Dhaka's representatives will ask that less of the aid be tied, writes Amin Chowdhury.

Gold strike

CZECHOSLOVAKIA has discovered a deposit of gold worth about \$1 billion at current prices—the biggest find in Europe for 20 years—the official news agency said yesterday.—Reuter.



NIGERIA has asked its trading partners for 18-months grace on its trade arrears.

NIGERIA has asked its trading partners for 18-months grace on its trade arrears, the country's military leader, Major-General Mohammed Buhari, said yesterday. The arrears are payments due to Western firms. Credit agencies that guaranteed the trade have refused any rescheduling until Nigeria agrees terms for an IMF loan. Lagos is unwilling to accept the IMF's conditions.—Reuter.

Sikh appeal

THE INDIAN Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called on Sikh leaders to respond favourably to his initiatives for settling the Punjab crisis, but warned them against mixing religion with politics. Addressing a Congress (I) party meeting he said he was determined to come to an early political settlement with the Sikhs, who want greater autonomy in Punjab.—AP.

Thai'd off

THAILAND'S population control expert, Dr Mechai Viravaldya, is trying to get a man who has fathered 32 children from seven wives to undergo a vasectomy. Mr Tek Kor, a meatball vendor in Nakhon Pathom province, 30 miles west of Bangkok, is contemplating taking an eighth wife.—Reuter.

Rosary

THE POPE led thousands of faithful in reciting the rosary on Saturday to "repair the damage inflicted" on the Virgin Mary by a French film, Hail Mary, which portrays Mary as a cabaret girl and shows her nude. The ceremony was broadcast by Vatican Radio.—AP.

Plant opens

UNION CARBIDE's main US plant has resumed production of the chemical which killed 2,000 people in Bhopal, India, when gases leaked from a plant there last December. The plant in Institute, West Virginia, was shut down after the Bhopal disaster, and received \$5 million upgrade in safety systems to avoid "leaks" of methyl isocyanate.—Reuter.

French agree to cooperate

PARIS: Two state-controlled companies have agreed to cooperate in research into President Reagan's space-based defence system, the newspaper, Le Monde, said yesterday.

President Francois Mitterrand said on Saturday that France would play no part in the Star Wars programme, but Le Monde reported that the defence group, Thomson-CSF, a subsidiary of the Compagnie Generale d'Electricite had agreed to join the Strategic Defence Initiative project.—Reuter.

Russia condemns Bitburg visit

MOSCOW: Soviet media and the National Veterans Committee yesterday condemned President Reagan's visit to a German military cemetery containing Nazi SS graves as an affront to Second World War victims and an action beyond sacrifice.

It is difficult to invent anything more insulting to the memory of the victims of war, to one's American fellow citizens, to one's compatriots, the Veterans Committee said in a statement issued through Tass.

The visit to the Bitburg cemetery containing the remains of 49 members of the Waffen SS, who also ran extermination camps, also drew protest from Jewish organisations, US Congressmen and veterans.

Tass criticised Mr Reagan's speech at a US Air Force base near the cemetery, saying it "was full of laudatory

Schlueter attacked in Danish ceremony

From Simon Tisdall in Copenhagen

The Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schluter, was pelted with eggs, tomatoes, and rotten fruit when the Liberation Day celebrations here on Saturday night turned into a demonstration against the Government.

Police estimated that about half of the 20,000 people who had assembled in Town Hall Square to mark the anniversary of the surrender of the German army of occupation 40 years ago took part in the protest against Mr Schluter.

The demonstration began when the Prime Minister took the platform, and was accompanied by loud jeers and the throwing of stink bombs. Some members of the crowd brandished posters saying "Go home Poul." Mr Schluter's words were drowned out and he was eventually forced to take shelter behind police riot shields.

Scuffles broke out between the demonstrators, who included squatters, peace campaigners, punks, and other members of the audience who had come to hear speeches by former ministers of the 1945 Liberation Government and by the Social Democrat Lord Mayor of Copenhagen.

The minority government of the conservative Prime Minister has fallen in popularity after strikes last month about the legally imposed public sector wage settlement and cuts in social services. Mr Schluter said he was "disappointed" that the demonstration had taken place on such an auspicious day, it was a disgrace.

PM warns Japanese

By James Naughtie

The Prime Minister yesterday intensified her criticism of the Japanese Government for its trade policy—warning that if Japanese markets were not opened to a rapid and appreciable cut in public expenditure and thus a substantial reduction in the budget deficit.

Britain, Germany, and Italy stressed the importance of small and medium-sized businesses. France, Britain, and Italy promised to cut inflation, while Germany and Canada emphasised growth through "removing obstacles" to growth.

Japan pledged itself further to deregulate financial markets, make the yen more available, and encourage the growth of imports by more open markets.

On the key trade issue, the German hosts, the Americans, and the British, attempted publicly to make their case for the summit failure. Dr Helmut Kohl and Mr Nigel Lawson said that a Gatt round would go ahead next year after preparatory discussions among senior officials.

Mrs Thatcher stressed the continuing general commitment to more free trade. The dispute on timing was, she said, the only difference and reality is a very real difference. Most of us still believe that there will be a new Gatt round in the first half of 1986.

The US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, said: "We will keep pushing for it (the new trade round) in 1986. If we don't get a new Gatt round, we will simply sit down and negotiate with the countries that are ready to negotiate with us."

Despite the brave talk, the lack of agreement is a matter of real concern. The sense of urgency was reflected in the strenuous effort to break down French farmers and the EEC summit session.

President Mitterrand gave three main reasons for his refusal to urge an early start to the Gatt round. He said that the only sector adequately prepared for early talks was agriculture, and he wanted other areas to be prepared too. Second, he wanted to give the other parties in Gatt a chance to express their views. "It is within Gatt that decisions should be taken," he said.

The third condition was that there should be parallel progress on monetary questions, such as exchange rates, which could make exporters uncompetitive within weeks.

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Nicaragua counts cost

From Tony Jenkins in Managua

The Government warned of the effects of the US-imposed trade embargo on the economy and recalled its ambassador to the US for consultations.

The state-owned Energy Institute said that an order for \$18 million of spare parts in 1984 from the United States had been frozen. The equipment is needed to maintain the national electricity grid. Although the parts could probably be found in Europe, he said, delays that may lead to a partial shutdown of the industry and lengthy power cuts.

The main domestic pharmaceutical company, Solka, has already had to slow down production of a variety of medicines to fill an alternative supplier of raw materials can be found. Medicines are already in short supply in Nicaragua.

The director of the national petroleum agency, Mr Otto Schaffer, has said that the country's only oil refinery, run by Esso, may also soon be paralysed as spare parts come from America.

The Telecommunications Ministry said that, although the blockade does not officially start until May 7, 32 crates of equipment are already being held by the US customs. Without this equipment, the Ministry said, the telephone system will soon start to break down.

Israelis count on computer defence

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

ISRAELI army engineers are digging a deep ditch along the international border with Lebanon as a barrier against suicide car bombers.

The ditch, which is clearly visible inside Lebanon just past the Israeli border town of Metulish, is the most old-fashioned part of a complex and highly sophisticated system of warning devices being installed along the frontier as the final Israeli withdrawal approaches. The system is said to be costing \$80,000 a yard.

In March, a Shi'ite Muslim suicide bomber blew up himself and his car in the middle of a convoy of Israeli army lorries carrying troops to the front. Thirteen soldiers died in the blast which was only yards from the border fence at Metulish.

According to Israeli press reports, which have to be approved by the military censor, the early warning system will be controlled by a central computer, and will include physical obstacles, electronic sensors, and powerful searchlights.

The condition of the existing border security fence has deteriorated in the three years since Israel invaded Lebanon.

The Cabinet voted at its weekly meeting here yesterday to allocate \$200 million to Israeli settlements along the northern border. Part of the money will be used for defences and air raid shelters, and part to encourage immigration to the area. A further \$110 million was allocated to pay for the completion of a three-stage troop withdrawal.

When the Israeli pullback is completed by the beginning of next month, northern Israeli towns and villages will be in range of rocket and artillery fire from south Lebanon.

Two positions manned by the South Lebanese Army, the local, largely Christian force that Israel hopes will prevent guerrilla incursions after the pullback, came under attack yesterday. Israeli military sources said that SLA men were reluctant to patrol at night.

Setback for women in Egypt

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

IN A VICTORY for Moslem conservatism, Egypt's Constitutional Court has declared invalid a six-year-old law which gave women some limited rights to divorce and maintenance.

The decision has come at a time of often heated debate in the People's Assembly on a campaign by religious fundamentalists to turn Egypt into a fully-fledged Islamic state.

Under a 1980 constitutional amendment, Shari'a became the basis of all Egyptian law and President Mubarak has promised that the remaining laws will ultimately be changed.

The president, however, is believed to favour a gradual move from civil laws, which are based on the French code Napoleon, whereas fundamentalists are demanding changes now.

On Saturday, the Constitutional Court declared that a 1979 law introduced by the late president Anwar Sadat, allegedly at the behest of his wife, Jihan, in which a woman was given marginally improved rights to divorce and maintenance, was unlawful because it had never been passed by the People's Assembly.

All Egypt's personal status laws governing the country's Muslim majority are based on Shari'a. A wife can only divorce her husband for a strictly limited list of matrimonial offences. But a husband can on the other hand, terminating a marriage with, by repudiating his wife three times.

Under "Jihan's laws" a man was compelled to inform his wife that he had divorced her. Many Egyptian women only discover their husband's second family after his death. A woman was also given the right to petition for divorce if her husband took a second wife without her consent.

Simultaneously, there has been a fresh attempt by members of the Muslim Brotherhood and their sympathisers in the People's Assembly to enforce strict Islamic laws on other issues, such as the imposition of punishments, including amputations, and the banning of alcohol. The Brotherhood is still illegal in which Egypt has several representatives in Parliament, most notably within the ranks of the WAFD party, a right-wing coalition which won 38 seats in last year's elections.

In Saturday's debate on a report by the Religious Affairs Committee, the government apparently defused the issue by blandly agreeing with the fundamentalist position, while judging the question of the timing.

Weekend violence leaves six

Eastern Cape blacks dead

South Africa troops seal off riot-hit township

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

At least 1,000 soldiers and police yesterday sealed off and occupied the black township of Kwanobuhle in the Eastern Cape Province to quell rioting after three more blacks were killed in fresh unrest.

The operation came after a conflict between rival anti-apartheid organisations erupted in violence, leaving at least three other blacks dead, including two children, also in the Eastern Cape.

The operation came after arsonists attacked the homes of three policemen in Kwanobuhle on Saturday. A 27-year-old man was later shot dead by police in the township.

The combined force manned roadblocks in their search for radicals attempting to "disrupt community" life by setting up to demolish schools, houses, and libraries. Helicopters flew over the township, distributing pamphlets urging residents to take a stand against arsonists and militants.

Unlike the first big operation by police and soldiers in Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle last year, yesterday's task force, which included members of the railway police, did not make house-to-house searches.

The deputy Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Adffan Vlok, said that the operation was ordered in response to "numerous requests from law-abiding residents".

Mr. Vlok, who is tipped to succeed Mr. Louis le Grange as Minister of Law and Order, labelled the task force as one of "limited size".

Police announced yesterday that three blacks have died in township violence since Satur-

day night. Two of the three died in Kwanobuhle: an arsonist was shot dead by police and a 48-year-old man died from wounds inflicted by sharp instruments. The third man died in Tsakane on the East Rand.

Fighting between followers of the rival Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation has claimed the lives of three people, according to the Sowetan Mirror.

The fighting, which took place in the Eastern Cape, came after last week's stalled attempt by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, to organise peace talks between leaders of the two movements.

Two of the three victims were yesterday said to be the children of an Azanian member in the Eastern Cape, Mr. George Mayekiso. They are reported to have died after his house was petrol-bombed, allegedly by UDF followers.

Seven of the 16 members charged with treason arrived here at the weekend after being granted bail by the Maritzburg Supreme Court.

The 16 were originally refused bail by the Attorney-General of Natal under the Internal Security Act. But the Natal judge president Mr. Justice Milne, granted them bail under stringent conditions in a judgment on Friday.

Mr. Justice Milne criticised the clause in the Internal Security Act empowering the Attorney-General to refuse bail, saying that it impinged on the freedom of the courts. He called on the authorities to consider repealing it.

Some of the 16 have been in police custody or in prison awaiting trial since August last year.

'Disaster threatens' despite recent rain

Nairobi: Rains have brought relief to some drought-stricken parts of Africa, but 700,000 metric tons of food are urgently needed to avert a major disaster in the worst-hit countries, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation warned today.

In its latest report for Africa released here, the FAO said exceptional grain shortages are now faced in several of 21 countries unable to grow enough despite recently improved weather.

Only concerted action in the coming weeks by the international community and the governments of the affected countries can avert a major disaster in the six most affected countries, namely Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger and Sudan, it said.

The total food aid required for Africa this marketing year rose by 100,000 tons in the past month to seven million tons. As of late April, only 6.3 million tons had been pledged, and of this just 2.7 million tons delivered.

In southern Africa, all outstanding promises of grain must be delivered immediately, and supplies needed by the Sahelian countries of central Africa must receive their shipments before June rains make distant towns inaccessible.

Seed has been eaten in many areas to stave off starvation and the FAO predicted that even if weather is

favourable, food deficits will continue into 1986 unless the seeds is replaced. The agency said.

Seed supplies are below the minimum requirements in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Sudan, and are

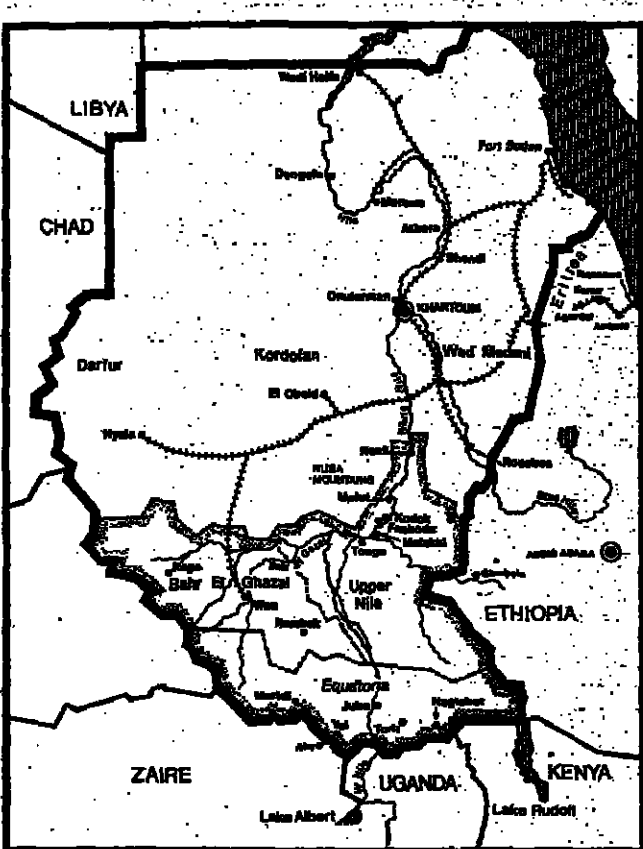
SOME of the estimated 500,000 drought victims reported to have been forcibly removed from a camp in northern Ethiopia last week have returned, relief workers in Addis Ababa said yesterday.

The refugees, whose makeshift shelters at Tinet were burned down after they left, had abandoned the long trek back to their former homes in the Wollo and Tegré regions. — Reuters.

needed within two months for the main 1985 planting.

To speed up delivery of crucial food aid, special ships are needed to remove serious bottlenecks at African ports, it urged. The flow of supplies into Ethiopia is limited by snags at its Red Sea port of Assab, and the concentration of people is great enough to receive outside help, in spite of the UNHCR's absence. The Islamic Relief UNHCR has provided tents. UNICEF supplies the bulk of the drugs,

and some free food comes from the United States Government.



A map shows the position of El Obeid camp in the Sudanese desert while victims of the famine queue for their rations.

Thousands shelter in a 'sand-blasted hell'

Jonathan Steele, recently in El Obeid, Sudan, visited a little known refugee camp.

ONE MIGHT as well start with the sand. On airless days when everyone huddles beneath their canopies of sacking and cardboard, and the temperature climbs to 45 degrees Celsius, the sand is the camp's red-hot floor. When the wind rises, as it often does, the sand becomes the camp's walk and ceiling too — a gusting, yellow cloud which blots out the horizon and permeates everything.

In this choking, dry hell, 47,000 people live, their water rationed at litres a person per day. In four white tents with four beds each, the sick, the dehydrated, and the dying wait feverily through the three-hour lunch break for the medical staff to return.

This is El Obeid Camp in the western Sudanese province of Kordofan. By comparison, the camps for Ethiopian refugees in the East, which have had most of the world's television attention, seem almost acceptable.

"It's not that the Sudanese authorities don't care," a foreign relief worker said. "But it's easier for a country to accept foreign refugees than to accept its own displaced people in camps."

"The authorities deliberately don't want to make the camp attractive," another worker said. "So that it doesn't become a magnet for too many people."

Recently, they closed the camp's register. Now the new arrivals who wander in every day to claim a piece of sand for a temporary home are told they do not qualify for rations.

Because El Obeid's people are internal refugees, fleeing drought and famine in their scattered villages, they do not come under the wing of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees which deals with international migrants. But the camp is the starkest single piece of evidence of Sudan's famine crisis.

In the number of victims and the extent of the problem, Sudan's emergency is approaching that of Ethiopia's. Sudan is Africa's largest country affected by drought. Five million people have lost crops and livestock, as the new ruler, General Abdel Rahman Swarredahab, said last month.

One and a half million people have been forced to leave their homes and migrate southward or to the cities to search for survival. One in six children according to a UNICEF estimate, face starvation.

Make-shift shacks sprout overnight on the edges of every town. Farmers here have made their livelihood around in search of food. A smaller cotton harvest this year is drawing four times as many would-be pickers as usual. They are looking for seasonal work which does not exist.

At El Obeid, the concentration of people is great enough to receive outside help, in spite of the UNHCR's absence. The Islamic Relief UNHCR has provided tents. UNICEF supplies the bulk of the drugs,

and some free food comes from the United States Government.

But the authorities' on-again, off-again attitude about whether to continue with the camp has meant that no foreign organisation has been invited to make a major contribution.

Former President Jafar Numeiri closed Kordofan's other camp at Um Ruwaba last December, evicting 8,000 residents. He also carted off several thousand of the region's hungry villagers who had walked 200 miles to Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city on the west bank of the Nile. They were loaded into lorries and dumped back in Kordofan. At least the camp at El Obeid stayed open.

Now the new military government in Khartoum wants to close it. Major-General Mustafa Mohammed, the military governor of Kordofan province, said last week: "We're going to take people back to their villages after we're sure there is water. Those who have no water

an inducement to go," he said. "I don't know whether they will put the food in the trucks with the people, or tell them it's waiting at the end of the rainbow."

"The first fear of this government is to have a camp on their doorstep — in case of food riots," he added. A hundred miles to the east, in the town of Kosti, hungry people recently broke into a grain store and made off with 10,000 sacks before police dispersed them with teargas. This happened after Numeiri was overthrown.

Saeed Abu Kumbal, the Manchester University-trained director of planning in the regional Ministry of Finance, argues that the choice facing the displaced people is unenviable, but in their place "it would probably agree to go south." The regional ministry of agriculture has worked out a plan to settle 2,800 families on 14,000 acres of virgin land in Dilling and Rashad, two areas of southern Kordofan.

In the camp, the long dispiriting

of his nephews died recently, one of measles, the other of diarrhoea.

A hundred yards away the procession reaches a series of better-looking tents. The homes of nomads, bigger, oblong in shape, and with sides made of black blankets instead of sackcloth. Inside there are solidly made wooden beds. Sitting on one of them, with a small boy holding her sleeve, is Hawa Hussein. She came from Sodiri, a 24-hour journey by lorry.

Their 30 sheep and goats all died. Her husband left last month for Omdurman to look for work. Two of her children, a seven-year-old daughter and a nine-month-old son, died of whooping cough last month.

Over and over again, similar stories recur — poor harvests, zero harvests; animals dead or sold at knock-down prices to buy highly priced grain to feed the family; then the long trek in search of food donated by strangers.

These are the lucky ones. American sorghum has been provided to the region, though only enough for three and half kg a person a month ("only a quarter of the amount needed," according to Rowland Roome of Care). In the camp people receive extra rations of onions and oil. About 5,000 malnourished children get supplementary feeding, a hot meal in the morning, and hot milk in the evening.

The food is ladled out in the tent where it is cooked, and mothers take it away — a system which has not been found adequate in Sudan's eastern camps.

Because many parents do not feed their children when they are sick, supervised feeding centres are considered essential.

The El Obeid people are lucky in another way. On the edge of a town, the healthiest have some chance of earning money to add to their slim rations of water and food.

Even so, the death rate at El Obeid has been high. A United Nations study in March registered 185 deaths the previous month, but pointed out that many deaths are never recorded. To try to persuade people to register deaths, the camp offers a grim reward — a free shroud.

In the sandy wasteland beyond El Obeid in the vast reaches of north Kordofan, conditions are worse. An Oxford survey of remote villages found that on average 15 per cent of all children under five were "moderately or severely" malnourished.

In one village near Sodiri, according to local expatriate folklore, it was given this summer by the British in the last century because it is so dry. Oxford's researcher, Malcolm McLean found that 12 children had died in the nine days before his visit, and others looked as if they would follow shortly.

They had all been returned with their families from the camp. Omdurman, when Numeiri trucked people out. It was a powerful reminder that moving people out of camps in a hurry is not always a real solution.

SWARREDAHAB

NUMEIRI

will go to new land in the south. We expect the first trucks will start next week."

Although General Mohammed claims that no one will be removed against their will, some local officials were aghast that the new government would do something which Numeiri had not dared. They fought a rear-guard action, apparently successfully, to ensure that there would be no fixed deadline for closing the camp entirely.

The military governor has conceded that those who do not want to go will be able to stay. But local aid workers believe that he will influence their choice by offering free grain only to those who go. Rowland Roome is the El Obeid project manager for Care, the American voluntary agency which has been appointed by the US Agency for International Development to distribute its supplies of sorghum.

He says that the last American shipment of 60,000 bags for El Obeid has been held back by the army as a strategic reserve. "They will give the families the grain as

wait goes on for whatever will turn up. Outside a roughly-built lean-to, made of branches draped with sacking, Gomal al Yusuf greets a visitor with a solemn handshake.

Around him gather several children, their hair caked with sand. A crowd quickly forms to listen to the stilted conversation through an interpreter. Unlike the better publicised camps for Ethiopian refugees in the east, visitors here are a comparative rarity. Progress around the camp becomes a trailing procession of excited children, and desperate adults who assume that any outsider must be a doctor who ought to be able to give immediate assistance.

Gomal al Yusuf used to own 13 acres, on which he grew groundnuts, sorghum, and millet, but three successive years of drought have destroyed everything. When he left the village to come to El Obeid camp, 300 other families had already gone. Only 10 to 15 people, the old and the disabled, were left behind.

His children do not get enough to eat, he says, but they are alive. Two

Gandhi warns US that India may take up nuclear option

Pakistani bomb likely to head agenda in Washington

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, hinted strongly at the weekend that if the US did not stop Pakistan developing an atom bomb, India would have to take up its own nuclear option.

Addressing a conference of his Congress Party here on Saturday, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan was developing a nuclear weapon which would change the whole situation in south Asia. "We are not convinced that all powers which can do so are trying to stop them," he added. "We are looking into various aspects of this question to see what action we should take."

The Pakistani "bomb" is expected to be at the top of Mr. Gandhi's agenda when he meets President Reagan in Washington next month. He had earlier charged the US with indirectly helping Pakistan by excluding it from the application of the Symington Amendment, which bars America from giving aid to any country trying to make nuclear weapons.

The US is a main supplier

of sophisticated arms to Islamabad to meet a Soviet threat from its neighbour, Afghanistan.

Commentators here detected a new urgency in the Prime Minister's warning after President Zia ul-Haq's recent disclosure that Pakistan is approaching the manufacture of pure uranium. The breakthrough point in enrichment technology is put at 3 per cent.

Indian scientists dispute Pakistan's claims to be working exclusively on civilian applications of nuclear technology. Pakistan, the Indians point out, has no nuclear power reactor in operation and has made no preparations for building one. It would take 20 years to build one from scratch.

Pakistan is ahead of India in enrichment technology, but India — unlike its Western neighbour — has already demonstrated a capability to make the bomb. Eleven years ago this month, it conducted an underground test, which was said to be for peaceful purposes.

It is generally accepted that India has not followed up the explosion and manufactured nuclear weapons, but no one

doubts the country's ability to do so.

India has five research reactors in operation to Pakistan's one. India has also shown itself superior to Pakistan in most aspects of nuclear technology, apart from enrichment. The Indians have designed and built nuclear power reactors of their own, as well as a plant for separating plutonium from spent nuclear fuel.

Mr. Gandhi is an outspoken campaigner for international nuclear weapons freeze, but he has always been careful not to close the door to development of an Indian bomb as a last resort.

The Indian Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, went out of his way after the Prime Minister had spoken on Saturday to stress that no decisions had been taken.

India must remain committed to socialism in order to improve the lives of millions of poor people, a top official of the ruling Congress Party, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said yesterday. India has developed a mixed economy since independence in 1947 with the State owning a big stake in key sectors like power, coal, oil, steel, minerals, railways and shipping.

30 Tamils die in raid

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

MORE THAN 30 Tamil guerrillas are believed to have been killed during an attack on Sri Lanka's naval base at Karainagar at the weekend.

The navy lost three men in the attack, while seven others were injured. Three of the injured were said to be in a critical condition 24 hours after the incident.

Karainagar is the main base of the Sri Lankan navy in the troubled northern Peninsula and is both heavily fortified and adequately manned. It also plays a vital role in the enforcement and maintenance by Sri Lanka of a "surveillance zone" in the narrow 23 mile Palk Strait, which separates the Jaffna Peninsula from southern India. The attack could therefore be construed as a prelude to an intrusion of men and arms to Sri Lanka's northern front from guerrilla bases in Tamil Nadu.

Official sources here believe that the attack was launched by the Eelam People's Liberation Front (EPRLF) — one of the five or six Tamil Nadu-based guerrilla groups, currently fighting for a separate state.

From all reports reaching Colombo, it appeared to have been well coordinated and professionally carried out.

**DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR
REPUBLIC OF
ALGERIA**

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND
PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES**

**NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY
(ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX Puits)**

**UNRESTRICTED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
INVITATION TO TENDER No. 9114-AY/MEC**

The National Oil Well Company is launching an unrestricted national and international invitation to tender for the supply of the following:

— 04 CATERPILLAR Electrogenic Units D.379 —
500 KVA 60 Cycles

Those tenderers who are interested by this invitation to tender may obtain specifications on payment of the sum of 400 Algerian Dinars, from the following address:

Entreprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits — 16 Route de Mostagan — Oued-Smar — El-Harrach — Alger — Direction des Approvisionnements — as from the publication date of this notice.

Tenders drawn up in five (05) copies must be sent in a double sealed and registered packet to the Secretariat of the Direction Approvisionnements at the address given above.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, with no marking except the following endorsement:

"Avis d'Appel à la concurrence ouvert National et International no 9114-AY/MEC — Confidential, a ne pas ouvrir."

The tenders must arrive within 45 days of the first publication of this notice. The option period shall be 180 days as from the closing date of this invitation to tender.

There she was with two children of her own and five steps, three of whom would be living with her. 'If I'd thought about it realistically, I never would have done it'



Polly Toynbee

HIDDEN inside the divorce and remarriage figures is the official guessimate that six million people now belong to step-families with children under 16. That is reckoned a conservative figure, with divorces currently running at one in three marriages.

Step-families are not a public problem, they are not like one parent families disadvantaged in any obvious way. The only public indication of what may lurk behind closed doors is the alarming fact that a high proportion of battered children and children in care come from step-families.

Divorcing parents may believe that grafting their children onto a new partner will be easy. Their children may seem so self-evidently lovable that it is hard to imagine that their new lover or spouse might not love them just as much. Indeed, their new spouse may hate them. The wicked step-parents of folk lore are based on deep and real agonies, perhaps — but sometimes very nearly.

One person who has learned to talk honestly about all this is Elizabeth

Hodder. She started a self-help organisation called Stepfamily two years ago and she has just published *The Step-Parents Handbook*.

She now reflects in relative tranquillity the early years of her second marriage — but she has to draw a deep breath and grit her teeth as she admits how she really felt.

When she left her first husband to marry her second, she brought her own two children with her. Her husband's last wife had died, leaving him with three children. He also had two children by his first wife. So there she was, with two of her own and five steps, three of whom would now be living with her. Not only was she introducing her children to a strange man and his three older children, but she was also taking on three new unknown children. "If I'd thought about it realistically, I never would have done it," she says, even though, in the end, it worked out reasonably well.

First of all there were her own children to worry about. "I was thought to be favouring my own. I suppose I did, though at the time I thought of course you are going to love your own children best. It's no use pretending that's not so." She says her own children seemed quieter and more vulnerable in the face of her husband's older, more assertive and outspoken offspring. "You are not aware how someone else will perceive your children. Just when they are uncertain and unhappy and need more affection, your partner may see them as boring, snivelling brats. When you are sentimental and indulgent at their performance in an appalling school nativity play, he may be cringing because he doesn't share the same insensitive affection for them."

She viewed his children with considerable alarm. "They were so forceful. They'd been brought up with



Elizabeth Hodder, meet with her step-grandson — pictures by Frank Martin

a completely different life-style and they were used to saying everything they felt. I've always been reticent. We weren't ones for talking about how babies are born, all that frank and open stuff some families go in for. I aimed to absorb them into one big happy family. I had absurdly high expectations of the kind of relationships we could all have — a story-book nuclear family. But 'step-families' aren't like that, and it doesn't help if you expect it and then feel you have failed."

At the time she knew no-

one else who was coping with 'step-children.' I had no confidence in myself. I felt a lot of jealousy about them. My step-daughter and I were particularly jealous of each other but, of course, at the time I never admitted it to myself. It was an awful thing to admit to. All the time I felt this gnawing gripe against them. I was obsessed with their behaviour, looking for ways to criticise them. You can't just summon up 'natural maternal feelings' if you haven't got them. It is quite wrong to expect that of yourself."

Outsiders, she says, don't

know how to treat step-parents. Doctors are often embarrassed and confused in dealing with a step-parent. "Recently," she says, "some doctors have also been telling me how often it is that when parents come to them with a problem about a child, the first revelation is that the child is a step-child, and may be an outsider in the family."

Elizabeth Hodder hopes that by talking loudly and often about the emotional tangles of step-family life she and her organisation will provide a salutary lesson to those still in a first marriage,

who may be contemplating breaking it up to form a second. "People get so tied up in themselves when they are getting divorced and remarried that all too often they haven't the time or the energy to think seriously about how their children feel. They want the new marriage to work that they rush at it, and assume their children will share in their own new-found happiness. There are those who criticise her efforts and say that she is, indirectly, encouraging people to get divorced.

But she says: "Divorce is here to stay. Nothing we or the government can do or say will turn back the clock."

She starts by saying firmly to people, "You can't change what you feel — but you can develop a capacity to cope. Once you acknowledge what you feel, then you won't make it worse by blaming the children on your partner. Don't set your sights too high in the first place. Don't expect to love each other, and then, perhaps, you can start to appreciate each other's best qualities. Try to develop enough self-esteem so that you do not easily take offence at the smallest implied criticism or lack of appreciation."

But better as I grew older. I was so young at the time, and I worried so much about what everyone else was thinking about me. I blamed myself for not being able to be that perfect mother-provider figure that all women feel they should be. I thought I should be able to take in these three strange children and make them all be happy, together with my own two. It's that old image of the good mother, laddling out soup and love to a table-full of bawling kids."

She remembers those first Christmases with a particularly painful shudder. "What ever is going on in a family, it all comes out at Christmas. We all had different ideas of how it should be done. We all had our own rituals that we weren't going to give up. It was down to stockings versus pillowcases and different presents opening times. All those absurd things really matter to people." She knows one step-family that ended up decorating their tree in two halves, a style for each side of the family.

Now, looking back, she finds that not only is she very fond of her step-children, but they are also fond of her, and of her children. Somehow or

other, it worked, and she believes that in most cases it can, but people need someone to turn to.

In only two years, her Stepfamily organisation has proved remarkably successful. There are 30 help lines all around the country. Letters pour in, most of them from astonished step-parents and also from children. All this is run by a few people on a shoestring, with headquarters in her back bedroom. They are in urgent need of money to cope with demands for help and advice. She also has a full-time job as an area organiser of Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

"Step-parents are seen as universally wicked, in every culture since the beginning of time," Elizabeth Hodder says. "It may be very difficult at times to see it, but in the end there can be a positive side to step-family life — more relations later on — more grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins. Diversity and a multiplicity of relationships can do good, not harm, a breath of air compared with small over-intense families."

But that, she admits, is a wisdom it takes time to acquire, and children may only appreciate it later on. Meanwhile, there are more immediate problems. The most serious concern is the incest and incest both of which she has come across in the two short years of Stepfamily's existence.

The Step-Parents Handbook by Elizabeth Hodder. Sphere £2.95.

Stepfamily — *The National Stepfamily Association, Maris House, Maris Lane, Trumpington, Cambridge.*

Polly Toynbee would like to hear the experiences of step-parents and step-children for a future article — all names and addresses in confidence.

Ruth Wishart reports from Aberdeen, where doctors operate a system which does not allow anyone to slip through the cervical smear test net

'80 per cent,' mused the doctor, 'when are you going to chase up the missing 20?'

HE CALLED it "The Fifth Freedom". Reminding readers of the British Medical Journal that Franklin Roosevelt had once demanded freedom of speech and worship, freedom from want and fear, Sir Dugald Baird added his own postscript: "That women should be free from the tyranny of excessive fertility."

He retired from the chair of obstetrics in his adopted home of Aberdeen 20 years ago, but evidence of his great legacy to that northern city bears contemporary witness to his remarkable commitment to female health care.

For Aberdeen emerged during the recent controversy on the recall of women with positive or suspicious cervical smears as the one city which consistently operated a fine mesh safety net. Whilst the onus may be on the patient in many parts of Britain, the relevant department in Aberdeen just keeps on looking for women with worrying results until they locate them.

The doctor who makes sure of that is Betty Macgregor. She was appointed by Baird 25 years ago to instigate a screening service. In fact Betty Macgregor had gone to Aberdeen with her husband but over dinner the professor assured Baird that she had reached 80 per cent of the population in his catchment area. "Eighty per cent," mused the great man. "And when are you going to chase up the missing 20?"

Nearing retirement, Betty Macgregor prepares to leave knowing not just her unit will survive but the methodology too and that any woman can walk into two centres in the city and have a smear test whenever they wish. These centres send their findings to a data bank — part of a medical success story of consistently low rates of mortality among mothers and babies in the area.

Since there was a captive audience in the hospital itself she began with them in 1960. "Everyone booted with laughter at the notion of women coming in for a tonsillectomy and going home with a smear test. But the women were really happy to comply. I had a torch, the lady with the lamp wasn't in it, I tell you."

A year later she delegated that task to a colleague and extended the service to the simulation of a large, simple personal smear service in doctors' surgeries.

Soon Betty Macgregor assured Baird that she had reached 80 per cent of the population in his catchment area. "Eighty per cent," mused the great man. "And when are you going to chase up the missing 20?"

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Dr Marion Hall, a senior obstetrician in the maternity hospital, considers that this centralised record-keeping married to the homogeneous

nature of the local population affords her unrivalled research opportunities.

"We have processed material here on every birth in the region since 1948," she says. "We have women in our labour wards now whose records began with their own birth. It gives us the ability instantly to check up on genetic factors leaving us free to do something positive about the environmental ones. Then again it's a very long standing tradition in Aberdeen that you will always co-operate in other colleagues' research. I think that's something quite common in Scottish academics, communities where the professor is expected to lead the team in fields like research. Sometimes I think that in London a professor's success is not gauged by that kind of thing at all but by how much money he makes."

Sir Dugald Baird, a lifelong Socialist, was never hesitant to lead the league of medicine's high earners. Shocked in the thirties by housing conditions he finally determined to give up private practice.

Dr Barbara Thompson, a social scientist who worked on research with Baird and his successor, John McGillivray, remembers clearly that decision being taken. "He could see that the women in his private clinics were really healthy but demanding a lot of attention that wasn't necessary either medically or obstetrically, and he thought he could contribute much more by concentrating on the high risk women who needed his care, and his research work."

The teaching was always the belief that women should have the number of children that they wanted in the optimum medical and social conditions.

And Dr Thompson became part of some radical changes in obstetric and gynaecological practice. "What he pioneered in those early days was the introduction of other disciplines into his department. And there were a lot of raised eyebrows in the late Forties and early Fifties when obstetrics began to include nutritionists and

social workers, sociologists, statisticians, and psychologists."

Barbara Thompson moved over to a new unit established by the Medical Research Council (now about to move to Glasgow) and continued her research work there in every imaginable field including abortion. It was the latter which brought Dugald into one of many sharp conflicts with the medical establishment.

Says Dr Thompson: "He had the courage to offer abortion and sterilisation to high priority women before anyone else in Britain thought about it. And that's why Aberdeen became important when the Abortion Act was being drafted because we could offer the benefit of first-hand experience and knowledge and follow-up research."

The obstetrics department has now restructured its services to offer a high level of care and knowledge and follow-up research.

for examinations being conducted merely to conform to long-standing practice once subscribed to by a medical ecological stone. "Sometimes patients do whatever doctors ask of them without questioning it," says Dr Marion Hall. "I think debate and democracy should be encouraged."

That philosophy is echoed by a thriving network of health visitors who consider it a priority to respond to patient demands rather than expect passive acceptance of their ministrations.

It would be idle to pretend that here is the British medical Utopia, since Aberdeen has its own tales to tell of professional rivalries, misunderstandings, and differing priorities. When a Wellman research centre established within the family planning building for instance, some male GPs argued that this was a squandering of ever more scarce resources on services already available in their surgeries.

But Isabel Noble, the senior health worker

involved, insists that her experience of the first six months shows that the women are presented with the kind of anxieties with which they hadn't felt able to "trouble the doctor." The initial analysis shows the three most common concerns to be weight gain, menopausal symptoms, and pre-menstrual tension, areas in which female concerns are often undervalued by men operating busy surgeries.

The Family Planning Service itself has the confidence appropriate to a 50-year-old pedigree and is keen to supply and counsel the young and unmarried as Mrs Victoria Gillick's ruling has no legal status in Scotland.

In some respects though the city has come to a natural punctuation mark since both Betty Macgregor and Barbara Thompson are due to retire, severing the last remaining link to the city's medical era. Yet the widely integrated health care now has the kind of momentum it would be difficult to stop.



Vanity Fair

THERE ARE those among the enormously rich who have come to realise that when one's life is crammed to bursting with material delights, the spirit still demands attention and that is why the owners of Biscuitola Limited have become our benefactors and shall bring a Superstore to Urbleton.

Biscuitola will build an immense but aesthetic Shed covering 67,000 square feet, ten times bigger than your average supermarket, bang in the middle of Urbleton High Street, so that the lives of the common people shall be made easier and their food cheaper. It's something to do with making profits. Biscuitola Limited don't need to make money any more, they only need to make happiness. They are the great philanthropists, come just in time to replace the Welfare State.

Like a Knight Errant, Biscuitola travels the country, searching here and there, finding a monster site, and plonk, depositing another chunk of benevolence.

Naturally, there is competition between the mega-companies to be the greatest benefactors, dedicated to the poor, bringing bargains to the needy and as the poor congregate in town, and the country is saturated with superstores already, they all wanted to be the first to get one into an Inner City Borough and Biscuitola has Done It.

There are however, always those who will balk at change, at the centralisation of shopping to the detriment of the earlies and treasurers of the generation of 4,000 more car journeys a day. Urbleton High Street being clogged solid with traffic as it is, and at the demise of small local shops, where old ladies could potter around with quater-basins and chatter to the cashier. But this is all nothing, compared to cheaper biscuits. There are those who'd say that cheap biscuits are available in super-markets, but that rather spoils Biscuitola's

mega-style altruism, and anyway. Our Council have given them the go-ahead. Biscuitola tempted them by promising 350 extra spaces for housing, entrances for the disabled, everything to make a Socialist Borough happy.

There were 600 jobs in the bakery that used to be there, but the Council wouldn't really quibble about anything. They didn't have much choice. They'd already said No to Biscuitola's first rather handsome application, and if they refused this second more tasty offer, why, Biscuitola would just appeal to Secretary of State, World Planner, Lord of All Boroughs, and he'd give permission.

Of course Secretary doesn't always say Yes, only 80 per cent of the time. But if Biscuitola are in the habit of giving Our Government a quarter of a million pounds now and again, then He is likely to bless them. In fact, out in Ruralia He's just granted permission for a Superstore that His own Inspectors advised Him to turn down, because even His Inspectors can make mistakes.

So Our Council thought they ought to try and squeeze the best they could out of Biscuitola themselves, for fear of Secretary allowing something worse to Biscuitola. Spendways and Frithermart are longing to match Biscuitola's achievements, and these found two more immediate sites, only minutes away from Biscuitola's Shed, and can hardly wait to buy them. That'll make three Superstores in one High Street.

So, as the Man from Biscuitola said, it's what the People want. He can tell from "retailing experience" and if the People wish for a world of vast stumps in which to shop, then they shall have it. Not Biscuitola. Benefactors don't do that.

Michele Hanson

The shape for things to come

Martin Pawley finds two Britons are the only earthbound architects yet to rate with NASA

NO ONE knows much about the arrangements for the USSR. But for architects to get work designing space stations for NASA is about as difficult as designing an extension for the National Gallery that everyone will approve of.

McDonnell Douglas, one of eight major contractors working on the permanent orbiting space station promised in President Reagan's state of the union speech in January 1984, is employing about 500 people on the project. Only one has an architectural background. No one in the entire NASA empire is employed as an outer space architect, but the director of the NASA Ames Research Center in San Francisco gets a phone call a day from architects or architectural students hoping to work on the final frontier.

In fact, though, one of the few design firms contracted by NASA is an Anglo-American architectural practice, with offices in London and Santa Monica. Future Systems Consultants was formed in 1979 with two partners: Jan Kaplicky, who teaches at the Architectural Association and practices in London, and David Nixon, who was born in Bradford but now runs the California end of the operation, working in Los Angeles and teaching at the Southern California Institute of Architecture. A kind of West Coast version of the AA. The two met in London when each was working with a high-tech

master: Kaplicky with Norman Foster, and Nixon with Renzo Piano, and Richard Rogers, who collaborated on the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

FSC works like a pen-pal practice, exchanging ideas by post and telephone and occasional visits and entering as many competitions as will square with an uncompromising futurism. Together Kaplicky and Nixon won first prize in the 1979 Melbourne Landmark competition, with engineering help from Frank Newby, and their growing portfolio of projects has been exhibited in London, Paris and Los Angeles. As often with innovators, actual contracts have been few.

They made their way into the NASA empire through a small-business programme sponsored by the US government and intended to ensure that not all the space programme fell into the hands of major aerospace contractors. Spin-off from the American space effort is supposed to feed into the economy as a whole.

Kaplicky and Nixon submitted a proposal for fold-out platform structure designed to collapse into the cargo bay of the Space Shuttle and to deploy as a large, rigid space frame for mounting orbiting experiments of all

kinds. This project, based on nesting structural elements in graphite/epoxy composite plastics, was a competitive submission.

Earlier this year another small business proposal followed, this time for a "high adaptability" interior design concept for the crew quarters of the \$8 billion permanent space station that is intended to reach specification stage by 1987. Kaplicky and Nixon's ideas for the interiors of the sleeping compartments for the crew of between six and ten, and the communal washroom area, were so well received that they have just been awarded a design research contract for the washroom and galley of the space station, a multifunctional space that fits into a cylinder measuring only 4.4 metres in diameter and 10.5 metres long.

This project has brought them face to face for the first time with the head-spinning problems of designing for zero-gravity. The 1982 permanent space station is not like those envisaged a decade ago, with gravity created by slow rotation. When NASA

scientists actually sat down to plan the carwheel satellite they found it would need a half-mile radius to provide gravity without fast rotation—quite beyond current shuttle payload feasibility.

Designing an interior for a tube with no gravity-imposed top or bottom or sides is a concept almost as difficult to describe as to carry out. Kaplicky and Nixon have made a special study of space literature, but even they still marvel at the possibilities. Because you can swim through the tiny rooms of the station," says Kaplicky, "all the evidence suggests that the kind of claustrophobia you would expect does not occur. Skylab astronauts, who stayed up for 30 days in the 1970s, compared it to living in a Volkswagen Beetle but it is not really that bad because the entire volume is available to you. What is missing is orientation."

Current NASA thinking is to provide a floor by means of straps like those on a windsurfer. There is even

something called an "aerodynamic deck" that may consist of a fine metal mesh with a current of air drawn downwards through it to keep paper or other objects in place.

"Back in the Skylab days," says Nixon, "they used velcro for everything. They even stuck velcro patches to the backs of spoons and forks, pens, pads, everything that would float around so that it would stick to the sheets of velcro stuck all over the walls."

Ventilation is interesting too. It becomes a way of studying things because all loose objects end up on the extract ducts. The problem of the space toilet too was accurately described in Stanley Kubrick's 2001. According to Nixon it has still not been solved despite the expenditure of over \$10 million, and he offers a graphic description of the problems of exercising and keeping clean in zero gravity.

Then there's the washroom and galley project. "What does it really mean to cook an omelette in zero-gravity. In space we shall confront the problem of scientifically preparing food for the first time. The two are chiefly concerned with 'crew personalisation' which means the

maintenance of individual identity in tiny crowded spaces for up to 90 days at a time. They are thinking of something along the lines of a transparent kitchen with individualised decor fabric inside. But they are also thinking, or rethinking, everyday objects in extra-terrestrial terms. If you stand say way up, you should perhaps have a three-dimensional table. The whole concept of the tiny washroom conjures up a submarine open to the public on Navy Days, but if you imagine that rotating, even The Enemy Below becomes impossible—as a paradigm.

Kaplicky and Nixon are adamant that a whole new concept of design is necessary for zero gravity. Yet the Soviets, who have carried out much longer orbital missions than the Americans, make do without. "Just as they do in their tanks," says Kaplicky.

Both men, now they have a foothold in space design, are anxious not to be misquoted or made an embarrassment to the mighty NASA programme. "Please, whatever you do, quote this as it is written," said the note Nixon taped upon me just before setting back to California.

The message read: "FSC are planning to set up a multi-disciplinary team to explore designs for a lunar base using an idea they have developed for lightweight superstructure which supports lunar sea-shielding for protection against micro-meteoroid impact and solar flare radiation."

Nancy Banks-Smith joins Peasod and Bonington in plimsoils and wet weather

Hell and the rock of ages

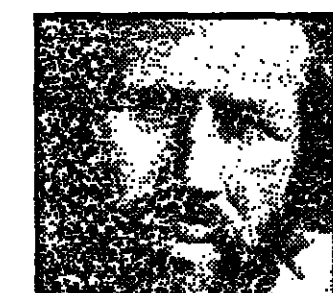
ROCK climbing seems to be a love affair laced with heartbreak and carrying cries of "Bloody hell fire!"

Bill Peasod, a magnificent name, fell in love with Buttermere one spring morning. "It was one of those incredibly beautiful early mornings. I'd been working in the pit all night and I was cycling home and the light was just coming on the fells. I bathed in the tin tub in front of the fire but I couldn't go to bed. The morning was still calling me."

"So I cycled out and it was just a lovely, early summer morning. Everything was beautifully soft and quiet. You could hear the horses moving in the farmyards and the farmers calling to their dogs. I was overwhelmed. The contrast between this bloody, godforsaken, derelict existence in the pit and coming up into the sunshine was just unbelievable. From that instant my life's course was set."

He and Chris Bonington were trudging up the flanks of Eagle Crag, through the bracken at its foot to the shaly scurl on its shoulder. They seemed to be quite alone in the world. Vision and sound followed with the fidelity of a sheepdog.

Forty years, one month and five days before (as Peasod remembers precisely) wearing Woolworth plimsoils, pared at the sides to give a closer grip on the rock, he was the first man to climb Eagle Front. Chris Bonington has tried it with modern equipment and failed. In Lakeland Rock (C4).



Bonington... Man of steel which will reconstruct five classic climbs, they were tackling it together in plimsoils and wet weather.

I wouldn't mind the Lake District if it weren't for the water. Any eagle on Eagle Crag that day would have felt more at home with webbed feet. In Bill Peasod's graphic phrase, which gave the film its title, it was like "Climbing with mackintosh on your feet." He began that slow, steady, comfortable cursing which comes from a life spent hanging by your fingertips from rock faces.

"Bloody hell fire," said the mackintosh shearer. "Everywhere is wet as hell. Chris, wet as hell. Oh, bloody hell, we're among the

crad again." By now he has shed the historic gymshoes ("To hell with this business of purism"), tried and discarded socks ("My missus'll go mad"), and was climbing in dashing scarlet socks over modern rubber boots. He demonstrated, however, the traditional leg-up method by standing on Bonington's shoulder which drew howls of pain from that man of steel. "Ow! Oh bloody hell, Bill!"

Taking a breather they stopped and looked at the little eye of the lake in its great socket of stone. After the war Peasod emigrated to Australia. "But leaving this was leaving behind a part of my life. There was a bloody great void when I got to Australia. That was why I took up painting, to try to say something about landscape. When my wife and I came back it was a day and a night and she looked at the clouds hanging over the mountain tops and she said 'You haven't been painting Australia. This is... what you've been painting.'"

Then — because it was there — I switched to the European Song Contest (BBC1) and do not altogether regret it because, in my mind's eye, the climb never ended. Throughout that three-hour tarradiddle, I seemed to see him climbing that mineshaft in the sky and swearing steadily and loving it constantly. And see him still.

This year's Eurovision Song Contest was remarkable as The Year of the Kid. Austria hit us with Children of the World. "Let's lend a helping hand. Let's give these kids a chance." And the entire population of Luxembourg, six people, turned up to sing Children, Kinder, Enfants.

Neither came within a mile of Denmark who—a notable first—actually fielded their own kid. Hot Eyes (though surely, one feels, this should have read Hot Ice) had the kid who stole that clothes interrupted their perky ditty and got generally underfoot. The Swedish producer, no child lover one fears, kept his camera on the talented child as much as was humanly possible.

Terry Wogan, however, commenting from his bed of pain, was much revived by the sight—"I wonder if I can find it for her"—and his cure was completed by the sight of Tyrone Power's kid, Romina, now some ten feet tall and looking like a leopard in lame.

The stage was strewn with bisected balls which may have been Swedish decor or monitors in case the singers forgot their words, though these were in no case demanding. Piano, piano for Switzerland. Ole Ole for Israel and Bra Vibrator for Sweden. And who could forget that?

Liv, laughter and love

Liv Ullman makes only one film or stage appearance a year. In 1985 it's stage — and in London. Waldemar Januszczak went to meet her.

THERE are two Liv Ullmans. Both are unmistakably Norwegian. The first is wide-eyed and ghostly. She wears long white dresses that hide her feet, and inhabits films directed by Ingmar Bergman, floating in and out of gloomy, turn-of-the-century interiors without ever quite touching the carpet.

The second, and real, Liv Ullman opens the door of a sunlit, roccoco dressing room at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and smiles beautifully. She has legs all right, long and shapely ones which on the stage tonight she will cross and uncross provocatively, fully aware of their effect on another woman's husband. This Liv Ullman has twinkling blue eyes and huge soft pink lips. Oh those lips. You could make a settee out of them.

Liv Ullman laughs, an honest, hearty laugh when I quote her a few lines from Peter Cowie's biography of Ingmar Bergman. "For certain men she has become a Mutter Erde figure, hers is the bosom on which to lay one's head and shed one's woes."

Does she mind being thought of as some kind of Norwegian Virgin Mary? Yes, she minds a little, because she isn't really a mother. But then she's even less like the consumptive, neurotic Bergmanesque victim. And of course she understands the importance of fantasy in people's lives. "It takes fantasy to be depressed. It takes fantasy to be happy too."

Liv Ullman is happy. You can see it in her eyes and smile it in the flowers which grow in her dressing room. You can read about it in Choices, her second fragment of autobiography published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson in February. Above all you can sense it on the stage in the contrast between her past and the play she is currently to be found in, Harold Pinter's Old Times, a tense and nervous portrait of a marriage threatened by the arrival of a face from the past. Film does strange things to people's identities. In Liv Ullman's case it has completely ignored the healthy corporeality which is such a feature of her presence on stage. In Old Times she projects so much inner composure that she sweeps like a snow-plough through the neurotic debris of Pinter's earlier films, the fragmented conversations, the blank stares.

"I think I'm a very happy person. I think I'm very out-



Liv Ullman: "It takes fantasy to be happy."

going. And I find very little connection between me and the parts I have been doing. I would love to be in a play that only gave pleasure. That only gave warmth. That didn't scare people. That didn't confuse them."

Lean and tanned, Liv Ullman is now in her mid-forties and well into the third major phase of her career. The first was spent largely on the side of Bergman as both actress and lover. The second saw her departure for Hollywood and a very mixed batch of films that saw her trying to break out of the Bergman mould. Does anybody out there remember Lost Horizon? ("It was fun. I was 30 years old. And from Norway. I would have been a fool not to go.")

But the third decade has inspired the most changes. It has included some enormous successes on Broadway and seen her emergence as a writer. "I am filled with fairy stories," she trills in Choices. "With trolls and elves and gnomes and legends. The fantasy of child-

hood stories invades my reality with passion." She sang in the last Richard Rodgers musical and, in her farewell Broadway, sweated noticeably in a chaotic production of Ibsen's Ghosts.

In 1980 she was appointed a UNICEF Ambassador of Goodwill and has since toured the corners of the Third World spreading that wholesome affection with which she glows like a teenager in a Shreddies advertisement. Since she began her UNICEF work she has confirmed her film and stage appearances to one a year. We are very lucky to have tempted her to the Theatre Royal with our Pinter.

Knowing she would meet him was part of the challenge. She sees him as a magical writer, someone who has created his own secret landscape. "It's the imagery. It's the things that are not said in the pauses. If you hear people having a party conversation, it's just one long drawn-out silence with words on top. The play is like that. The rhythms and

the pauses make their own comment on what you've just said. The play has its own motor, so it carries you through. We go on the train. And the train is Pinter."

In Old Times the Pinter train takes us down to the South Coast, to a house by the sea where we are treated to the grim spectacle of three people trying to squeeze themselves into a relationship made for two. Anna is the intruder, a woman so desperate to reclaim her youth that she is prepared to stir doubt and jealousy into her friends' twenty-year marriage.

I see her as very evil. But probably she doesn't come out as bad as I thought. I'm probably defending her without really knowing. I thought I was really doing terrible things. Evil smiles and all that. And here I hear I was projecting warmth.

Those huge, pink lips open up, and out comes a laugh that makes mincemeat of an awkward, Pinteresque silence.

Alex Hamilton reviews the latest paperbacks

Marriage of true minds

LEFT TO her own devices in Venice by her famous husband, the artist critic John Ruskin, who all his life will remain more interested in stones than people, his child bride Effie, still a virgin after some years of marriage, goes regularly to work at the opera. She only admits Italian admirers when John is there, but on the rare occasion that he goes with her he writes a chapter on characterised stones like Donatello's performance. This was actually a happy period before she modelled for John's friend and protégé, Millais, and the train of events, which led to the annulment, and get down Memory Lane (which appears to be circular), as we pound the old Joanna, roll out the barrel, and let the world know we're gonna get it up when the lights go on again in London.

The River War by Winston S. Churchill (1899, NEL £2.75). The river was the Nile, and the war in the Sudan included the immolation of Gordon and the eventual defeat of the Mahdi at Omdurman, a battle in which Churchill himself took part. The rich and sonorous delivery is there right from the beginning; his prose swells like a cobra's hood at the prospect of an engagement—wonderful stuff, if you can follow him in connecting each sidishow to the main issue.

The Exercise Myth by Dr Henry Solomon (1984, Angus and Robertson £2.95). The book that every Fatguts, every bolting hutch of beastliness, has been waiting for, the one by a cardiologist with a doctorate and a clinic that says that the only reward for all those people grunting about in track suits will get from their efforts is a good appetite. Dr Solomon says this is an anti-exercise book, but he evidently feels you must be very fit before indulging.

Weight Watchers 365-Day Menu Cookbook with respective notes by the founder, Jean Nidetch (1983, NEL £1.95). The shrinking man's panoramic gourmet spread, including unbelievably daring treats like a corn of rice, a quince and a quince, and combinations like macaroni cheese with peanut sauce, and breakfasts that will not cause you to be late for work like three quarters of an ounce of cereal with four ounces of fruit cocktail.

The Last Great Race by Eric Newby (1986, Granada £2.50). I've read all Newby's travel books have been paperbacks recently, the solid middle on the Apennines, Hindu Kush, Ganges and a Life by Picador, and the last one, The Ride on the Great Red Train by Penguin, but Granada have hung on to the first, and in some ways the best, with its high spirits, from a novel before Newby's first book, and the excitement of its story, when he bound himself apprentice seaman at 18 in 1938 on a four-master barque running to Australia.

Some are known as poets—Gavin Ewart, Vernon Scannell, Roy Campbell, Sidney Keyes and Keith Douglas etc. Some as novelists and critics, like Lawrence Durrell

and G.S. Fraser and Jocelyn Brooke. Some for occupations that look contrary to poetry, like Quentin Hogg and Enoch Powell. But most are men who would otherwise have no memorial, and here and there among these are several which, sad to say, are not just plain irreverent, give you a pungent whiff of what it might have been like.

World War II Songs edited by Michael Leitch, with 180 Pictures-Posters sort of photos of the Home Front (1985, Omnibus £8.95). Time once again to tip the coconut shell and bird crumbs out of Tommy's tin, get up on the status, and get down Memory Lane (which appears to be circular), as we pound the old Joanna, roll out the barrel, and let the world know we're gonna get it up when the lights go on again in London.

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BRIGHTON
Tom Sutcliffe

Benvenuto Cellini

IT'S NOT just the Roman market that makes Benvenuto Cellini do nicely for the Brighton Festival's theme this year: clowns and the commedia dell'arte. There's a touch of the clown in the way Benvenuto's originality as a composer blithely and disproportionately redraws the conventions creating a typical sense of anxiety behind abandoned, almost clumsy rhythmic energy.

The inventiveness is simple enough. The story and the music furnishing it seem contrived rather than organic. But festival director Gavin Henderson's decision to mount the show at the Brighton Pavilion, a

work into some kind of celebratory whole. Both the large open stage and the gangways of the auditorium were flooded frequently with crowds of masked revellers. It was an event.

A producer of more daring than Peter Ebert would not just have stirred all the ingredients in and stood back satisfied. Here the bustle and excitement swamped the real story of the competition between the two sculptors, Cellini and Fieramosca, for the daughter of the Pope's treasurer, Glaciarlo Gemin's unattractive designs at the behest of the stage and the use of the wide open space never achieved a satisfactory focus, and the plot seemed incidental to all the extracurricular goings-on.

One problem was the tendency of the conductor, Bryan Balkwill, perhaps reckoning to help Arthur Jacobs's mate translation come across, to take all the speedy music too gingerly. Jacobs has a penchant for translating abuse with an angry reference. He has people say "immovable things like 'You rabbit' or 'You ancient donkey.' The balance of the

orchestra form the National Centre for Orchestral Studies was always strange, brass forward, strings buzzing and underpowered.

With stronger singing, one might not have minded all the naïf games played by the masked commedia dell'arte figures, and the awkward staging of crucial scenes. The women at least were vibrant and exciting. Louise Kennedy making much of her chances as Teresa, and Anne Mason's Ascanio sounding like a good deal more alluring than Jane Berbie does on the Colin Davis recording. Their prayer duet was the musical peak of the performance.

David Johnston seemed rather a faded roue as Cellini, but sang with authority and musicality. If not with the right sort of French tenor timbre, John Hancock was a dashing and persuasive Fieramosca, though not very credible when he said: "I'm killing myself with rage." Dennis Wicks was an adequately commanding Pope Clement.

It was a mistake, however, not to find a more imposing Balducci than Andrew

Gallagher — and the supporting parts and the New Sussex Opera chorus were simply not up to the demands and opportunities of Benvenuto's score.

COVENT GARDEN

Mary Clarke

Swan Lake

THE SADLER'S Wells Royal Ballet season at Covent Garden is a short one and has to concentrate, perforce, on showing to London, in a worthy setting, the spectacular classic productions in the repertoire which can never be crammed on to the restricted space of the Sadler's Wells stage.

The Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake dominate the season to the joy, no doubt, of the box office, and they provide illuminating evidence not only of the still and intelligence of Peter Wright's direction of the company but also of the way in which he has to deploy

his still limited resources of personnel.

The Sleeping Beauty, of course, imposes the most rigorous challenges of classic style upon the dancers and not even the visual impact of the production can disguise the fact that Peter Wright needs more dancers properly to realise his conception. On the other hand, Swan Lake, which came back to Covent Garden in its original Samson-Prowse version on Friday, challenges the dancers but, because of the powerful dramatic truth of this staging, allows them to make it a company triumph.

The sombre but very positive view that Wright and his designer / collaborator Philip Prowse take of the ballet lends itself admirably to ensemble acting. Wright here, as so often, gives his supporting cast motivation: they do not stand around in huddles; they participate. And the casting in strength, forced upon a medium-sized troupe, brings performances of great stature from the senior artists. Not since the Bolshoi, for instance, have we seen a Von Rothbart

who commands the stage as powerfully as does Desmond Kelly.

But it is the company, ever since the Manchester premiere in 1981, who have made this production such a success. Every cameo role is vivid; every solo precisely judged. The guest artist principals, Evelyn Hart from Holland, were a little disappointing, but SWRS gave the packed house a rewarding evening.

SHEFFIELD

Pete Martin

Archie Shepp

THROUGHOUT his career Archie Shepp has displayed a strong awareness of the political context of his music, so it was entirely appropriate that his northern debut, at Sheffield University, should take place at an event dedicated to the struggle for freedom in Southern Africa. I'm not so sure, though, that



Archie Shepp at Sheffield University

either the time or the place allowed a fair assessment of the quartet which he is currently touring.

For most of the time we had to endure a prolonged immersion in the old familiar miseries of a student union Saturday night: the interminable search for the late start, the brass support band which has most of the audience huddling in the bar for shelter.

Then, well into Sunday morning, came the Archie Shepp quartet. It would be

good to report that the long wait was worthwhile, and for a few minutes all seemed well as Shepp's gruff tenor chewed its way through several choruses of Blue Monk.

This, however, soon gave way to a long and incoherent blues vocal, then the leader dabbling in the piano. Back at the keyboard Albert Sarko introduced the next piece over Steve Noll's rumbling bass, and Shepp played a brief but disjointed soprano saxophone solo before launching into one of his remarkable poems. A ballad, a rather clumsy treatment of Parker's Moose The Mooche, another blues, and that was it.

Understandably, those who had waited five hours called for an encore, but needless to say there was no time for that. I have no doubt that the Archie Shepp quartet will produce some much more memorable music than their current tour. Hear them by all means—the leader is one of the most compelling voices on the current scene—but try to choose a venue with a caretaker who wants to be home for midnight.

مكتبة الأصيل

How useful was the journey to Bonn?

And so another economic summit has passed, a homage to inertia, failing to agree even on the issue of when to start the new round of trade talks next year. In one sense it should not matter. The annual economic summit of the seven leading industrialised nations was never intended to produce an annual world budget. But it was also never intended that there should be tens of millions unemployed towards the end of a world economic recovery.

With the honourable exception of Mrs Thatcher's commendable initiative to tackle the world drugs problem on a co-ordinated basis, the seven heads of state did nothing that they were not already planning to do beyond a concerted regimentation of summit platitudes: consolidated progress in reducing inflation, prudent and strengthened budget policies, firm control over public spending, and reducing obstacles to growth. They didn't need to come to Bonn to rejoin last year's communiqué in the word processor.

Expectations in this summit had already been so dampened by the media manipulators, that merely to have agreed a date for the start of the next round of international trade negotiations would have been regarded as success. This was not to be. Even trade talks in France are shortened for a fresh US attempt to break the restrictive practices of the Common Agricultural Policy to open up new markets for American hard-pressed farmers. "Non" said President Mitterrand with both eyes on the farming vote in the 1986 mid year elections for the National Assembly where his majority is threatened.

This will not stop the pressure for trade talks. Indeed the absence of any concrete proposal to refit the stronger economies, Japan, W. Germany and the UK to take up the slack as the US recovery expires will reinforce the US administration's stance. Faced with ever rising demands for protection from Congress and industry (whose competitiveness at home and abroad has been battered by the strong dollar) the Reagan government will insist on new talks to free not just agriculture but service industries like banking and insurance, plus the burgeoning world of information technology. The state-dominated purchasing policies of every telecommunication utility are the number one target, each seen as a huge outlay for US goods.

If the rest of the world does not agree to open up such markets then the strongly free trade Reagan camp threatens a series of bilateral deals or worse, giving in to domestic pressures for protection which have prompted even high tech firms like Motorola, to call for a 20 per cent import surcharge across the board. If the US administration caves into such pressures — and it is not impossible that they will — then the world would almost certainly relapse into a beggar-my-neighbour trade war which could provoke a fresh international recession instead of a prolonged recovery.

The best way to have avoided that would have been for Europe and Japan to have admitted at Bonn that just as their own "recoveries" owe much to their exports to the US (financed by that country's gargantuan budget deficit) so they owed it to the US economy to expand their own economies to help the US economy towards a "soft-landing" and to reduce their own lengthening unemployment queues.

As it is the opportunity of economic statesmanship has been submerged by misplaced national self-interest. What does it profit the world if inflation is squeezed down another percentage point while the dole queues lengthen and the engine room of the world recovery runs out of gas?

The need to think again about GCHQ

Sir Robert Armstrong, cabinet secretary and head of the home civil service will meet assorted civil service union leaders this week. Of itself, even under present management, this is no big deal. The topic under discussion suggests, however, a certain confusion in governmental circles. For the unions have asked to discuss the latest twist in the sorry saga of GCHQ. The governmental position is, in theory, clear and remains unchanged from the moment the government banned trade union membership at the once-secret establishment. It is in theory no longer possible to be a trade union member and to work at GCHQ. If you hold a union card you are in the running for early retirement, enforced transfer to some less sensitive outpost or, if neither take your fancy, for the sack. Mr Justice Gidwell, in the court of first instance, found the ban unlawful. On appeal, that ruling was overturned. The issue is complicated by the fact that some GCHQ employees took the Government's £1,000 in lieu and then — bolstered by the Gidwell ruling — rejoined the union of their choice.

In all, some 100 GCHQ employees, or about 1½ per cent, are still union members. About half of these never tore up their union cards. The other fifty climbed back on board. It matters little whether you are talking about those who took the money and then had a change of heart or those who toughed it out. A union card is a union card and a union card is supposedly enough to count you out of Cheltenham. Belatedly, nine rejoinders were warned that they face disciplinary proceedings. It is about those warnings that Sir Robert is now prepared to talk. To union leaders the fact that Sir Robert is open to discussion must be a breakthrough. For, applying the unilateral terms of last year's prime ministerial ruling, there is nothing to talk about.

The top-line message union leaders will bring Sir Robert is that union members at GCHQ are not forgotten. Any attempt to sack unionists will result in a call for a 24 hour general strike of civil servants — a strike which will have the full backing of Mr Norman Willis of the TUC. With such a threat a resolute government could, no doubt, live. Having seen off the entire civil service, seeking pay claims above and beyond the norm. Mrs Thatcher could survive a spotty one day stoppage in support of a few dozen "troublemakers." But the middle line is more disturbing. Morale at Cheltenham is at rock bottom. This is not a secret service department that is easily manned. GCHQ demands stable (and marketable) skills, be they languages, the sciences or technological. According to union sources, the recruitment rate is now "practically zero." And resignations, in some particularly saleable skills, are running at around 50 per cent. (Remember those high tech companies which took hotel rooms in Cheltenham last year to recruit the disenchanted at twice the basic civil service rates.)

This is the background against which the new talks will take place. We still believe that last year's offer by the unions was fair and reasonable: A no-strike deal; Divorce of GCHQ from national pay disputes; A system which removes national union officials from local negotiations. Last year those concessions were brushed aside. It would be difficult for any government to reverse such a firm stand — let alone Mrs Thatcher's. And yet, with morale at GCHQ so low the government has very practical reasons to swallow hard and to think again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The problem of profits

Sir,—Martin Weitzman's profit-sharing Utopia (May 1), although not as new to the UK as he always implies, is a useful stimulus to long-term thinking with a degree of relevance to incomes policies.

But neither he nor those who struggle heroically to adapt his theories to the UK effectively face two implications. Firstly the formulas for apportionment of profit between capital and labour are crucial but remain vague. The non-profits value added taken by labour varies vastly in UK business, between sector and sector and from year to year.

Secondly, Weitzman writes of "offering strong tax advantages for workers to receive income in the form of profit shares and to play the same fairly by the rules. This tax discrimination may be OK in the USA, where profit is king. But in the UK and other countries with vast non-profit sectors (and proud of it), such a highly discriminatory scheme is naïve. It is already difficult to justify to nurses, teachers, probation officers and other public servants the valuable tax incentives for employee shareholding which, unlike Weitzman's scheme, are not benefits in cash. Yours faithfully, Richard Wainwright, MP, House of Commons.

Work at a price

Sir,—The county of Cwylid in North Wales is an area that has suffered severely in the post-1979 industrial collapse. Most notably, perhaps, is the loss of 7,000 jobs at BSC Shotton in 1980. We were involved in a study of the impact of the redundancies on the labour market area and the local economy.

Concerned with evaluating the longer-term implications of substantial local employment losses, we have sought to obtain data held by the Department of Trade and Industry on the post-redundancy experience of the Shotton ex-steelworkers over an 18-month period. Despite our efforts, we were unable to obtain the department's cooperation until earlier this year after more than a year of trying.

However, whilst the department is now prepared to let us have the information, it seeks to make a charge — a sum of more than £15,000. Such an amount is prohibitive and means that an extremely important information source will probably never be analysed. There can be no account of how redundancy compensation terms influence the search for work, no analysis of how compensation was used and no assessment of the relationship between compensation and reduction in earnings potential.

More important, faced with the possibility of later closures, there can be no accurate assessment of the potential return to work.

There is no point in collecting data unless they are made available to those who seek to use them constructively. It is inefficient to collect data and then not make them accessible. It is contrary to common sense to restrict and confine access and to apply commercial criteria to organisations that are not using data for commercial purposes. Such an attitude restricts and limits understanding and is not in the interests of the community nor the economy.—Yours faithfully, David R. Jones, R. Ross Mackay, Department of Economics, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

Sir,—Your Dairy Item (May 3) prints the amusing story about the two members of Leicester CND "Rabbits" and their "Rabbit" and being copped by plain clothes men from the Met out on a plane-spotting outing.

But the more serious aspect of this action occurred next. The remaining members of the group of CND "Rabbits" got back into their van and drove around to Alconbury's main gate, and while the two guards on duty questioned two of the "Rabbits" the six other members of the party walked

A cruel experiment with Britain's youth

Sir,—David Hencke's latest report (April 30) on the infamous "board and lodgings regulations" provides another illustration of the misery in store for 85,000 young people who are already without either a home or job. Some of the blame for this hardship must rest with those Tory backbenchers who were prepared to rebel out of concern for young people who happened to be relatively well-off university students but felt constrained to do so when young homeless people were facing a much greater threat.

There is no reasonable justification for making life worse for homeless people who already have to tolerate overcrowding, squalor, lack of privacy and the risk of death by fire which exist in some board and lodging establishments. The Social Security Minister's cynical "Dole" strokes fails to conceal the conspicuous need for a housing strategy which will provide decent homes for the homeless and poorly-housed.

More than 500 organisations have taken the trouble to warn the Government's Social Security Advisory Committee that the proposals would be a disaster for people who already have more than their share of hardship. Many of the submissions to the SSAC

pointed out that the proposals would result in an increasing number of people competing for a reducing amount of deteriorating accommodation and a very dramatic increase in the number of people forced to sleep outdoors.

Homeless people will find it unfortunate in the extreme that the Government has chosen to all but ignore the advice of the SSAC by producing regulations which the Chair of the SSAC has described as a "leap in the dark."

Homeless and unemployed boarders who are under 26 will be the primary victims of the Government's cruel experiment. They will be forced to leave the areas in which they grew up (the very reason why they were there in the first place) and then con-

tinued moving areas every 2 to 8 weeks. In this enforced nomadic nightmare the right to vote and the right to medical attention will become meaningless and family connections will be severed.

In the published regulations the Government summarised the SSAC's response to this as "Welcome limitation of restriction to those aged 25 and under." Unfortunately the Government seems to have overlooked the far from welcome paragraph 72 of the SSAC's report on the regulations which warns:

"... However, we think they (ie, the regulations) do still pose substantial and extremely worrying problems, the most significant of which remain the possibility of creating a class of homeless and rootless young person

who is unable to return to the parental home for whatever reason, and who cannot remain long enough in any one location to find permanent accommodation or a job."

Some of us may hope in vain that the SSAC's unpalatable "possibility" does not become fact. But what else can be expected when young people without homes, jobs and now without hope are kicked off the bottom rung of the housing ladder? — Yours faithfully, Nigel Kite, London E15.

Sir,—The social scene in Britain today is becoming desperate. Working with the young unemployed, I have seen develop over the past five years an increasing gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots."

In many areas of the country one can now see whole families with no wage to sustain them. It is not that parents do not want their children to live at home: it is that they may be unable to afford to let them stay. It is also important to recognise that young people associate leaving home and making their own way in life as being "adult."

With the introduction of the changes in benefit eligibility, the pressures to enforce participation in YTS,

and now the new regulations on bed and breakfast accommodation for the unemployed, the plight of young people is dire. They can be forgiven for believing that society has ceased to care for them. — Yours, Paul Treke, 5 Shanklin Close, Luton.

Sir,—The Government is to be congratulated on its witty solution to the problem of the homeless, unemployed under the age of 26:

To run them out of town for not existing in a job which do not exist is worthy of Monty Python. All poets manqué will appreciate the sonorous beauty of the list that begins "Devon, Cornwall, Dyfed," as delineating areas in which the homeless unemployed will not be allowed—the next list of counties is even more beautiful when spoken aloud.

Of course, if you can be clever enough to dispossess 85,000 young people of their votes, there will be no unpleasant electoral consequence, only a lot of appreciative people like me, adding their names to the list, even if I do catch a faint whiff of South African pass laws.—Yours sincerely, Lyn Rickard, 33 Winchelsea Avenue, Newark, Notts.



Miscellany at large

Sir,—There will no doubt be wide-spread sympathy for Larry Gostin in his gallant attempt to reform the National Council for Civil Liberties. It is a pity, however, that according to the account given in your columns (May 2) he appears to be still thinking in terms of "Right and Left."

These labels beloved of journalists, have little relation to current politics, and are misleading when applied to the field of civil liberties, as unjustified limitations on the liberty of the subject can come from anywhere.

The only distinction which matters is between those who are destroying freedom and those who are defending it and the dividing line does not correspond to political parties and certainly has no relation to the division between trade unionists and non-trade unionists.—Yours R. J. Silburn, 10 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, Surrey.

Sir,—Your Dairy Item (May 3) prints the amusing story about the two members of Leicester CND "Rabbits" and their "Rabbit" and being copped by plain clothes men from the Met out on a plane-spotting outing.

But the more serious aspect of this action occurred next. The remaining members of the group of CND "Rabbits" got back into their van and drove around to Alconbury's main gate, and while the two guards on duty questioned two of the "Rabbits" the six other members of the party walked

unhindered, and climbed on to a display jet. Alconbury is the war HQ for European Nuclear Forces and (according to the plane spotting policemen) was that day in the middle of one of their many NATO exercises. It surely highlights the black farce New calls "defence" when it cannot repel a few rabbits.—Yours, Jeremy Deacon, Leicester CND.

Sir,—I was hoping that flocinacanthinification would be the last word on the subject... until you allowed your correspondent (May 3) to make the quantum leap into scientific jargon.

This was a dangerous move because you enter a form of linguistic hyperspace where few would boldly go, a kind of black hole where syntax is suspended and language takes on a life of its own.

For instance, (and you had better take a deep breath here), the longest word I have come across in any language is the name of a protein that begins "methionylglutaminylserine" and finishes "1,212" later as "alaninylalanylthreoninylglycylserine." The formula can be shortened to C1289H2061N340O375S8, but even this requires 23 syllables of speech.

In fact, a curious aspect of this mega-clump of information is that, although it has often been written and printed, it has never to my knowledge been actually spoken.—Yours faithfully, John Chesterman, London WC1.

A COUNTRY DIARY.

KESWICK: There has been a lot of north wind this spring, as there often is here, and its latest breath came searching into every corner of the farmyard on the fell. The cabbages were dry this morning and partly swept, the lads had finished mucking-out but then this is a farm which is well-kept even in the milkiest weather. The farmhouse sits in the centre of its buildings, barns, byre and lotts like a hen amongst chickens. Everything was in order. Lambing is almost finished. It has been a good year with plenty of

twins, a few triplets and happily no "pet" lambs in the orchard but the orchard does not lack life. Late daffodils bend in the wind and the viburnum on the house wall is full of scent. A greenish wasp was busy stripping the buds from a big plum tree, leaving the daisy trees to open their first flowers. There was more shelter in the valley bottom. The green catkins willows hardly stirred and the sun lay shone up the length of the beck. Water weed fanned below in the current, the green spears of flag iris just

broke the surface and only the dark poisonous green droppet stood clear of the flow. The asbes are clothed with purple-brown flower buds. There are signs of occupation round the badger sett but each spring is a race to see who has a chance to watch there or will the pushy, inquisitive crows be turned out after winter? I have won so far this year abetted by bad weather, and an old hen in the Lyth valley always said that nasty spells, "cow-quakes" often came with the new grass.

ENID J. WILSON

Sir,—Dr D. S. Grimes gives the impression that Health Authorities are totally at fault for failing to bill private patients. The problem with the present system is that it relies entirely on the honesty of the consultant to declare which patients are being treated privately and which are receiving treatment from the NHS.

Dr Grimes states over the charges consultants make for "professional" services. What exactly constitutes these professional services? In many cases diagnostic tests are involved, which are performed by NHS laboratory services. These tests are often very expensive but in many cases, the consultant

requesting a diagnostic test does not indicate that it is for a private patient, thereby depriving the NHS of valuable income whilst charging the patient under the heading "professional services." This situation arises even when arrangements exist to help identification of the system relies entirely on the honesty of the consultant and the individual consultant and is therefore open to abuse.

The only answer really is to ban all private consultations from NHS hospitals. A full-time NHS consultant should be paid a salary with no private work allowed. No doubt this is anathema to many consultants but the question is can the NHS afford to forgo millions of pounds of revenue?

This does not solve the problem of potential abuses of the system by General Practitioners, but it would go a long way to reducing the loss of revenue suffered and the consequent further deterioration in service.—Yours sincerely, A. McBurney, Markfield, Leics.

Sir,—The real reason for long waiting lists in our hospitals is lack of NHS staff and facilities in relation to the population. We in Gloucester for example have four Consultant General Surgeons. In Canada, a country of similar size would have fifteen. In most of Europe, the United States and in Eastern block countries, waiting lists are generally short of non-existent because of higher ratios of trained staff to population.

Private facilities are bound to flourish if the State service is inadequately staffed. Skilled workers in other jobs are rarely blamed for taking on extra work in their spare time. Private facilities ease the burden of the NHS considerably.

Finally let it be remembered that the NHS has survived largely due to the goodwill of its medical staff and the numerous unpaid hours worked by most of us over the years.—Yours sincerely, John O. Kirby, M.S., F.R.C.S., Consultant Surgeon, 19 College Green, Gloucester.

The Green light that beckons at the end of the tunnel



Geoffrey Taylor

SO FAR as outsiders can understand it, particle physics remains the most exciting of the sciences as well as the user of the biggest machinery. It has a bearing on everyday life in two ways, one obvious and the other less so.

Laymen are, of course, at some disadvantage because physics depends on forbidding equations as well as on occasional shafts of genius. Indeed, physicists tend to insist that no one else can begin to understand the harmony, subtlety, and beauty of their world, which is perhaps not the most tactful way of extracting money from a reluctant Treasury. Whether or not we fully understand the harmony we shall soon know more about the finances when a committee under Sir

John Kendrew advises whether Britain should continue its subscription to the European Nuclear Research Centre (CERN) at Geneva.

The £50 million which Britain contributes in membership fees for the use of equipment goes among other things towards the maintenance of a particle accelerator five miles in circumference and the building of an even larger one, circumference 17 miles, under the Jura mountains. In these machines electrons and their anti-matter counterparts, positrons, are accelerated to within a fraction of the speed of light in order to test physical theories which go to the root of the existence of the five sciences of the universe.

To find the money from a severely restricted science budget of £587 million, other projects, more modest but with more obvious applications, have to be turned away by the five science research councils which administer the grants. The crude way to put it is that scientific inquiries which might have an early impact on mental health, agriculture, atmospheric pollution or geological exploration are being sacrificed to a pure research discipline of great intellectual rigor but not practical use. But that would be very crude indeed.

Hitherto the work done at CERN has had no military

and scarcely any other practical application, which makes it the more surprising that it should have survived. With the advent of the Strategic Defence Initiative governments looking for contracts may now hope that the charged particles whirled through the Jura mountains will eventually earn their keep in space-based military hardware, so that the technological spin-off which is so often put forward as the justification for pure research might even accrue to CERN. That would be a gross distortion of the life's work of every physicist this century as well as those practising today.

For the fact is that there has already been important spin-off from particle physics and quantum mechanics, but it is not technological and the interpretation of it has scarcely begun. A handful of physicists have found ways to relate the tremendous discoveries of the past 50 years, and the past four or five, to the urgencies of the human condition, if that is not too lavish a term. Among the most influential has been the work of the physicist Erwin Schrödinger in his classic *The Tao of Physics*, which traces the unexpected parallels in the views of the world provided by particle physics and the eastern mystical religions. David Bohm, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Birkbeck College, has since given a holistic context to quantum mechanics in

his "wholeness and the implications of order."

Of the two biggest changes brought about by 20th century physics one is to replace determinism, in which every event could in principle be predicted by a knowledge of the motions of atoms, by an infinite series of possibilities arising from the irregularity of particle behaviour. The other is to replace the separateness of atoms, molecules, and hence the organisms of which they form part, by connections which have physicists themselves reeling at the implications. It appears an exaggeration that a particle which helps to constitute a person at one moment may be at the centre of a star the next.

The main ambition of high-energy physics now is to harmonise the four elementary forces of nature, which are electromagnetism, the strong and weak forces which bind the atomic nucleus together, and gravity. Two of them have been precisely predicted from the original splitting of the atom.

To hazard a guess, the influence will be benign because the research points in that direction. Fritiof Capra is now in the thick of Green politics, which is where physics has led him. The whole title is between the individual and the rest of nature. The distinction of Green politics is that it is less dominated by the issuance of manifestos and the enact-

individual contributions to its wellbeing, which if the present pace continues may turn out to be immense. The slight snag is that CERN, valuable as it has been so far, may in all its trials turn out to be too puny a tested by Paul Davies, an enthusiastic supporter of CERN, reckons in his new book *Superforce* that the particle accelerator needed to verify the ultimate equations would have to be the size of the solar system. (The military spin-off from research is doubtless under review.) So where does it end?

Leaving aside the precise circumference of the ultimate accelerator it would be unusual if scientific discovery were not to make an impact on political life and human conduct now as it has done in the past. What form this influence will take is unpredictable in the same way as the current arms race could not have been precisely predicted from the original splitting of the atom.

To hazard a guess, the influence will be benign because the research points in that direction. Fritiof Capra is now in the thick of Green politics, which is where physics has led him. The whole title is between the individual and the rest of nature. The distinction of Green politics is that it is less dominated by the issuance of manifestos and the enact-

ment of legislation for the better ordering of "society," to assume direct personal responsibility for what happens instead of shuffling off the responsibility on to distant and anonymous institutions of state. (That's what makes it frightening.)

It could be argued that a column devoted to CERN should eventually make up its mind which is more worth the money, that or the scores of smaller but valuable projects which the science and engineering research council would like to encourage. The easy way out is to compare the cost of CERN with that of the Trident programme or other extravaganzas which spring to mind. That, however, is not an option open to Sir John Kendrew. I hope he will not impoverish CERN. That would not be an easy conclusion to justify to a victim of the Ethiopian famine. But if particle physics does have something to say about human behaviour it might be easier to convince a political refugee.

It will in any case be a moment to enjoy if Green or holistic politics finds its intellectual underpinning in a vast, energy-intensive, and scarcely comprehensible mechanism under the Alps. Perhaps we should look forward to that day.

Hugo Young's column will appear on Tuesdays

What future for the welfare state?

COMMENTARY

Ian Aitken



Much the same process has been developing over the past six months, as Mr. Fowler buckled down to the mammoth task of preparing his reports on the future of the welfare state. First came the word that the Secretary of State was himself drafting the main body of the document. We heard that Mr. Fowler had been seen driving away to some unknown destination, there to be alone with his portable typewriter and his thoughts.

Then followed reports that a mad axeman, whose description bore a striking similarity to that of the Chancellor, had been seen lurking in the shadows of Great George Street. While Mr. Fowler struggled to preserve and improve our ramshackle welfare system, it was alleged that Mr. Lawson was demanding cuts of up to £4 billion as the price of Treasury agreement.

By now, it should have come as no surprise to learn that Mr. Fowler had won again. In spite of his own threats, the £4 billion cuts had been averted. All the welfare state would have to suffer it seemed was a mere one billion.

And that, in general, has

been the pattern of Mr. Fowler's long run of triumphs over the Treasury. Not for billion cuts, just one billion. Callooh! Callay!

This procedure has certainly marked out Mr. Fowler as a clever politician, well qualified for the departmental promotion most MPs expect him to secure in Mrs. Thatcher's autumn reshuffle. He will leave behind him a splendid new blueprint (in every sense of the term) for the welfare state. Someone else will have to put it into effect.

But if this seems a cynical, even hostile, account of Mr. Fowler's career at the Department of Health and Social Security, it is not intended to be — at least, not entirely. For the fact is that any fair person who is prepared momentarily to divest himself of his ideological allegiance must recognise that the future of the welfare state really does pose serious problems to any British government, whatever its political colour.

Short of some kind of British "economic miracle" which would create the kind of steep and sustained economic growth that has eluded every British govern-

effective welfare state in a civilised society. Even Labour MPs will sooner or later be forced to re-examine the principle of universality, in spite of the fact that many of them have consistently regarded it as the touchstone of the Beveridge-style welfare state.

That principle is already under threat because too many people can now see that huge sums of money are being wasted in pointless payments to people who do not need it, simply in order to save the genuinely needy from humiliation and embarrassment. It does not require mathematics at A-level to see that if such waste was not paid out, there would be more available for the needy.

But the Government's efforts to block off that particular drain on its funds have created in the best traditions of Professor Palash's shower bath, an entirely different and even more absurd drain. We now have a vast bureaucracy spread from end to end of the land, whose sole task is to dish out money to people who don't need it so that they can take it back again in taxation.

Indeed, thanks to inflation, even some of the people who genuinely do need the money are now seeing some of it snatched back from them by the ever-lengthening arm of the Inland Revenue. In this kind of madhouse, the only beneficiaries are the civil servants.

What is it that has brought us to this absurd position? I believe it can be

traced back to the evil days of the 1930s, when the Man from the Means Test terrorised entire communities in Scotland, South Wales, Tyne and the North West. That means test was enforced with ruthless cruelty, confining every last penny available throughout whole families in order to deprive starving children of food and warmth. The experience created a folk-memory in the Labour movement which has ensured that the very mention of a means test is instantly rejected as a return to squalor and humiliation for millions of poor families.

But it need not be so. On the contrary, some form of means test has always been regarded in the Labour Party and the trades unions as central to the creation of a fair society insofar as it acts as the collection of income tax and rates. There would be uproar if it were to be suggested that such taxes should not reflect relative levels of income and wealth.

The time has now come for the Labour Party to re-examine its mythology. And it happens that the advent of the computer age may well have provided it with the opportunity to do so. What is wrong with putting the entire nation's income tax returns on a single monster computer, and conducting a design version of the means test from that? It is really no more than fitting a new and efficient thermostat to Professor Palash's shower.

PAUL KEEL reports from the beaches of Benidorm

On the Costa calma

BENIDORM was awoken yesterday morning by dozens of small explosions. The sound reverberated round the dense cluster of hotel and flat tower blocks which rise competitively above the Mediterranean bay on the Costa Blanca. The sudden noise caused startled tourists to peer cautiously from their hotel balconies, but the waiters putting out chairs and tables in front of the restaurant bars below carried on unperturbed.

What the waiters knew, and the tourists did not, is that May 3 is a religious festival in Spain and the Spaniards, who seem to have an enthusiasm for fireworks exceeded only by the Chinese, will let them off given any excuse. Even the normally jumpy colony of ferrets in Benidorm seemed used to the commotion.

If anyone is alarmed it's the Spanish government — naturally concerned about the effect that ETA's latest bombing campaign could have on this year's tourist industry, already hit by rising prices and reports of mugging.

Even if the local ministry of tourism officials did not tell visitors about Sunday, the Cinco de Mayo, the Ministry of the Interior has drafted in hundreds of extra police officers to patrol this, and all the other, resorts on Spain's Mediterranean coast.

Observing them on the lookout for terrorists from the Basque separatist organisation, can also be a puzzling experience for visitors. Judging by the attention they receive, high on the list of suspect persons in Benidorm this holiday weekend seemed to be scantily dressed young women, but the police are taking their duties more seriously: all along Benidorm's two-mile stretch of sandy beach car and personal identification checks have been a familiar sight.

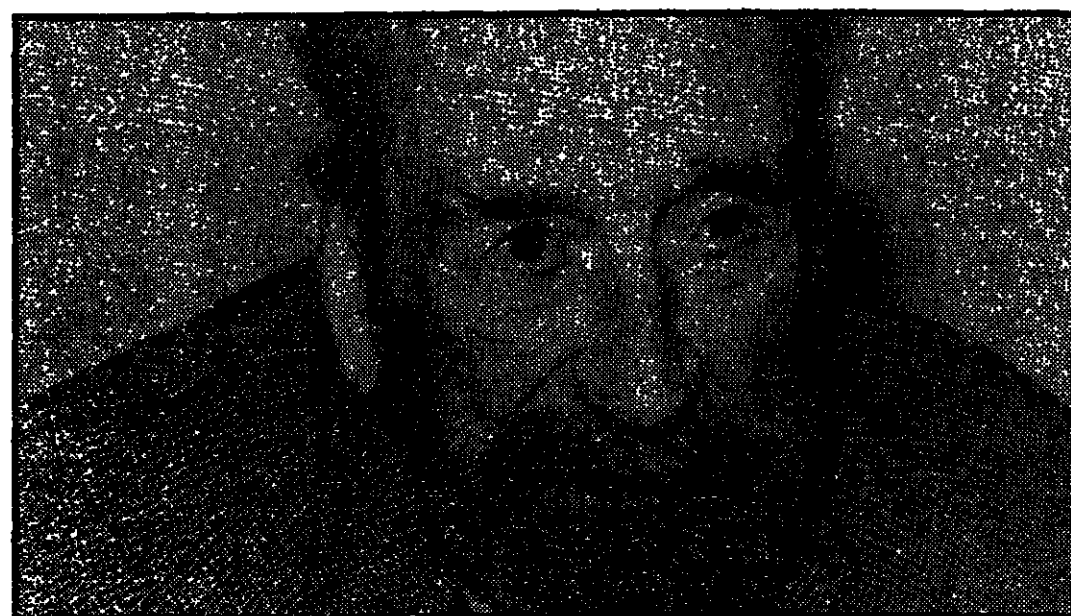
The Alicante police authorities responsible for the Costa Blanca are convinced that those responsible for the four explosions and the many more false alarms in the region so far are Vascons (Basques) living and working locally. This is one reason why the authorities hope the campaign to damage the tourist industry rather than life and limb will not be extended to the Costa del Sol, where the Vascons would find it more difficult to go underground.

"Loco" and "joven" ("mad" and "young") are the two adjectives most employed by the Spanish here to describe the ETA activists. Although concerned about the immediate effect of the movement's campaign on tourism they are inclined to shrug off its long-term significance. The front page of yesterday's edition of the Alicante-based newspaper, *Informacion*, gave most space to a story about the desecration of two graves in a local municipal cemetery.

The indigenous population's response to the present problems is matched by that of the tourists. On Saturday night in Benidorm hundreds ate and drank behind plateglass windows overlooking the beach where a bomb exploded in the early, unpopulated, hours of the morning last week.

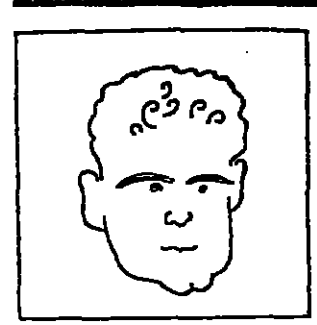
That device, containing only a few grammes of plastic explosive, would never have been heard above the discos, let alone have shattered the glass. Far more dangerous at Benidorm bars yesterday were the cocktails being dispensed to tourists in goblets the size of goldfish bowls.

While the Basque nationalist party this weekend was condemning ETA's present campaign for damaging the image of their region, expatriate Britons drinking in Benidorm's *Parrot Taverna* were less bothered. David Bickel from Surrey, a barman who has lived and worked in the resort for the last two years, yesterday summed up the feeling of many of his regulars who have retired to or bought businesses on the Costa Blanca. "Four English people were killed in a road accident around here three weeks ago. I bet that didn't make headlines in Britain, did it?"



Percy Fender: at the Oval in 1922 (right); playing for a cricketers' authors team in 1957 (left); and as he is now (above).

Thirty four minutes of heaven at the crease



Terry Coleman

P. G. H. FENDER is the celebrated cricketer who in 1920 scored a first class hundred in 35 minutes, which was the fastest century ever. It is a record which has not been broken, and it is in all the books and in the memory of almost anyone who has watched or read about cricket.

But men who make legends do not always know much about them, and Mr. Fender, who is still living at the age of 52, remembers very little about his innings. This is not only because he is a great age, and old men forget. When I went to see him the other day he said that the Surrey scorer had told him the time was not 35 minutes, it was 34. He will appear, as material, but he had not realised at the time that he had made the fastest century. Indeed, he said it was not until some time afterwards — he cannot remember how long — that he did realise what he had done. And he had not kept the bat — as a man might who knew he had done a great feat with it.

Not kept it at all? "Not separately, no. I went on using it."

And he hadn't got it now? "No."

But he does still have a swordstick presented to him, in a gallant gesture, by a man he defeated in a duel. That was just before the first world war.

When I asked about this duel he said, "Oh, we'll forget about that." But he had won? He had wounded his man? "A scratch was enough." What were they duelling over? "A girl."

So, he had kept the memento of that encounter but not the bat that made the hundred.

I went to see Mr. Fender because we are now at the beginning of another cricket season, because of that famous hundred, and because he is, so far as I know, the oldest Test cricketer still living, and because he is P. G. H. Fender, and played in an era when the presence of a name on the scorecard in that form gave information. He was not written down as Percy Fender, as he would now familiarly appear on an Oval scorecard (sometimes now even called programmes). His friends might have called him Percy, or George, but to the cricketing public he was P. G. H. Fender, and the initials before his name meant, of course, that he was an amateur.

He now lives in a nursing home at Exeter. He is almost blind and a bit deaf, a great tall man propped up in an armchair, looking a bit like an aged Brigadier. He believes his family on the paternal side were very likely Scottish outlaws, and that a stream and a property near Blair Atholl bear his name. He remembers very little of anything at all recent. Mention the West Indies and he calls to mind Challenger, a fine batsman from Barbados

who last appeared in England in 1928. But he remembers with great clarity the incidents of a lifetime ago.

As a schoolboy of 17 he played for Sussex, hadn't he? And hadn't he once played with Ranji?

"I didn't run him out," came the answer straightaway. "Yes, against the Australians, in '12." Ranji, having made 125, called the boy for a run. Fender sent him back, and Ranji was run out. And it turned out, when I checked later, that Ranji had been run out but had admitted the fault was his own.

This was about the time of the duel over the girl, and about the time Fender, who says to this day that he always wanted to be a barrister, went to watch the trial of Crippen for murdering his wife.

"Yes, I was there. Well, you see, a great friend of my father was clerk of the court at the Old Bailey, and he bid I could go and sit with him under the judge at any time, and I used to go quite frequently."

In the 1914 war Fender served in the Royal Flying Corps. After the war he played for Surrey, made the 35 minute century, and in 1920-21 toured Australia with the MCC. The team went out by boat, stopping everywhere, and when they reached Australia the team all ended up in quarantine for two weeks, because, as he remembers, one of the passengers who boarded at Colombo went down with something or other.

He became captain of Surrey, and once employed an American baseball coach to sharpen the county's throwing. He was in the wine business, and had his own brand of whisky, called P.G.H. One winter he toured the United States with Jack

Hubert. "I was instrumental in constructing a company which was playing in a show — I think it was called *The Way, New York and Chicago*. I think it made money, just."

The Twenties were the days when a cricketer could attain the sort of popularity nowadays achieved only by pop stars and smoocher players. Fender achieved it and it did him no good. By 1924 he had played in 12 Tests. Thereafter he played in only another one, and he puts this down to Lord Harris of the MCC — "because we disagreed on most things" — and to H. D. G. Leveson Gower, president of Surrey.

In an age when amateurs generally entered the field from one gate and the professionals from another, Fender liked to lead his team out all together. He says this was not approved of. "And I asked the Surrey committee to make it the same dressing room for both, but they wouldn't. That was Leveson Gower, of course."

And Fender, while continuing as captain of Surrey, had also turned to journalism, which is enough to put anyone beyond the pale. In 1928-9 he went to Australia to cover the Test series for the *Old Star*, and also wrote a book about it, which does at times make strange reading.

This was Bradman's first series. It was also the season that Bradman made more runs in an Australian season than anyone has made before or since. But Fender, in his book, described the young man as someone who could be "relied upon to field," and said that he would "always be in the category of the brilliant, if unsound, ones."

Well, anyone can make a mistake, and it's particularly

hard luck not to think all that much of a man who became one of cricket's paramount geniuses, but I suggested to Fender that he had been just plain wrong, hadn't he?

"In a sense, yes," he said, but that was about all the concession he was going to make. Bradman, he said, had turned out to be good in his particular strikes, and had made them successfully, but Hobbs had been the better batsman.

And among the Australians, Fender had preferred Kippax? "Yes, and what was the chap who died? Jackson? (A. A. Jackson, who made 164 in his first Test). I thought Jackson was the better player."

Now Jackson's brief career had and has its many admirers, but as I sat with Fender the other day I had a feeling that, come what may, and 55 years on, he was going to stand by his perverse opinion of Bradman. He persisted in thinking not all that much of him even in 1930. Now Bradman in England in 1930 scored 974 runs in five Tests at an average of 139, but when I mentioned this season Fender said: "I don't remember an impression of Bradman in 1930, except one thing. In the Oval match against Surrey he was dropped at short leg before he was in double figures."

How many did he then make? "Oh, he made a hundred, I expect." What he made was 252 not out, one of six innings over 200 he made that season.

Fender also played some part in the bodyline controversy of 1932-33, when the bowling of Larwood and Voce, under the England captain Jardine, so menaced the persons of the Australian batsmen as nearly to start a war between Britain and her loyal Dominion. For an anal-

ysis of Fender's part in this, one had best go, as I have gone for this and many other things, to Richard Streeton's scholarly book, *P.G.H. Fender: a Biography*.

But, simply, the fact is that Fender and Jardine were great friends, that Fender was known as a mighty shrewd and sharp thinker on how to get your opponent out, and that Fender publicly took Jardine's part.

When that series was won and the MCC embarrassed by the furore, and when the time came for the Australians next to tour England in 1934, Jardine wrote to the MCC as Fender puts it, "with great dignity and magnificent disdain," saying he didn't want to be considered as a player again, let alone as captain.

"He was sick of all the rows," says Fender. Very well, but what about the idea of leg theory bowling itself? Was it a good idea? "As far as I was concerned, it was more or less accidental. You see, he (Larwood) was a very fast bowler, and every now and again he would bowl from wide of the crease, and the ball would come across your body and if it missed one bit it would hit the other bit." Here Mr. Fender, in his arm chair, placed his hand over his heart to show where.

What about the batsman getting hit? "Well, he shouldn't be standing in the wrong place," Mr. Fender said. He had played against Larwood six times a season, two county matches, two Gentlemen and Players, and a couple of festival games, and he never got hit.

The only time I have seen Mr. Fender before was in Melbourne at the Centenary Test match in 1977, when he was 50 and with many

other former England players. But he did not remember that extraordinary match. Nor did he remember anything about a man called O'Shaughnessy except that a newspaper once brought O'Shaughnessy to see him. O'Shaughnessy is a Lancashire batsman who in 1933 having been bowled balls to hit, to encourage a declaration, made a century also in 36 minutes, thus equalling the record Mr. Fender remembers nothing about their meeting.

But Mr. Fender does remember, and then told me in detail about it, how he played on the lawn at Melrose, Holland Road, Brighton, with his two uncles and their father. He was six or seven. They gave him a tennis racket, and they played cricket with a tennis ball. And the county ground at Hove was only five minutes away, and he remembers Millward, the captain of Brighton Brunswick, and he remembers the man who ran the nursery at the county ground. And then we came to a catch he once made. That must have been much later.

"I remember," he said, "one catch I made which surprised even me. I was fielding at third slip, and I hit one downwards. I reached for it, and it struck. I didn't really know it was catch until after the event."

After the events of a life, the things that stick in P.G.H. Fender's mind — as appeared in that hour's conversation in Exeter — were that catch, a preference for young Jackson over young Bradman, tennis balls on the lawn, and the man who ran the nursery at Hove. Not his legendary hundred at all, though he does say the Surrey scorer told him it was made in 34 minutes, not 35.

The unity only Labour can provide

Pictures by Robert Abernethy

KEN LIVINGSTONE

in conversation with

BEATRIX CAMPBELL

Bea Campbell: Forgive me for saying it, but I think you could have redefined the whole rate-capping debate earlier. Something stopped you. Weren't you holding on to your alliance with the hard Left despite your own better judgment?

Ken Livingstone: The GLC has worked because you've brought hard Left soft Left, Centre and those Right-wingers that want to do something useful with their lives, together. I mean I'm not looking for a labour movement in which the hard Left is isolated and made powerless and useless and irrelevant. The Left only advances in Britain where there's a degree of unity. If I was in the Communist Party which ever wing I was in, I wouldn't drive the other out. All through last year, I was working on the assumption that the miners' strike would run for a bit longer than it did. About October, I started making speeches saying if rate-capping starts while the miners' strike is going on, the Government will be in real straits because it can't police both the mining communities and the cities.

The rate-capping struggle and the miners' running concurrently would have been immeasurably good for both of them. There couldn't have been a worse time for the miners' strike to come to an end from our viewpoint, exactly when it was about to lift off. And that was a chance of victory worth trying for.

Why was it when some of your colleagues tried to change the terms of the rate-capping debate in an article in the New Socialist last year you didn't participate in that? What were you trying to do was realign or change the terms of the debate so the sort of questions that you've been asking would have been asked, but they were left on their own.

That's really because all my natural suspicions were aroused about what the motives were and where it was leading. I mean within me are a lot of the old Tanky and vanguardist attitudes as well as a lot of the new ones. It's not that I'm a product of just what's happened here recently. I think

the reason I often probably annoy people like yourself is basically those conflicting strands which run through my political approach. The real weakness was that the strategy which was effectively binding the whole of the London Labour Party, and having an impact on national policy, was what emerged from meetings with leaders and we never really brought together the wider movement, or consulted them even. I think we mistook going and talking at trade unionists about having a great struggle for actually involving them.

Do you feel there's sometimes a belief that the people are essentially conservative, frightened, won't want to go the whole way? Success carries a vocabulary of heroism, martyrdom, sacrifice, another civility test?

I think that's a very strong part of the Left tradition, because there were times when people did die for the cause. Spain in the 30s, and the struggles of people in the civil rights movement in the States, right across the western world. I think what has happened is that the Left hasn't kept pace with the changes in what individuals have in terms of information and power. What we haven't fully adjusted to, perhaps because too many of us sit around getting dew-eyed at the thought of Russia in 1917, is that the world is really very different. Most workers have access to information on a scale which was most probably the preserve of the absolute elite in society. They get it through their television, even though it is distorted. The failure of the rate-capping campaign is that for a variety of reasons we regressed.

You feel it's a failure?

Yes. It's a failure to understand the way we should actually treat the Government. We slipped back into the simple position which has been outdated for years, of fine speeches and over-looked the fact that we didn't mobilise the community as a lot of the new trade unionists, because we never sat down and thought where do we want to be.

Now, in terms of what we've done in things like the GLC women's committee, ethnic minorities, gay rights, we've had a quite clear idea of where we wanted to get to — breaking down attitudes and prejudices and changing lifestyles. At the end of the day nobody sat down and thought what do we want to get out of rate-capping. It remained a purely defensive struggle. We never said rate-capping gives us a chance to completely transform our cities.

Why not?

I think because the basic traditional way in which the Labour Party campaigns is they call meetings and speak to the public, and then go on to the next meeting. We do not find a way of involving the community in all the various phases of the community within the structure of the labour movement. We don't involve them in the decision-making process. We talk to them. And if we get the message right, well that's fine. For a while they'll be with you. And if you can then deliver something perhaps they'll stay with you, until it goes wrong. Then what you've built is revealed as just a shell.

The picture that you've described leaves the feeling that the labour movement is a movement that doesn't move.

Yes. The trade union movement, for example, had a very clear relevance to a large proportion of working-class Britain in Victorian times. It's not developed as the party's developed, and it's not got more involved in the struggles it could do within the community — around housing, planning transport — because it is solely geared to wages and conditions. The only time it gets into a wider political perspective is via the Labour Party or Labour government. Once it moves away from the wage base it becomes basically a resistive body, not a participatory one. And even worse, in many areas it has ceased to be a participatory movement even at the point of production.

All this sounds similar to the debate on the Left

which, I suppose, these days would be identified with Eric Hobsbawm, a debate about a crisis of participation and representation within the labour movement. Do you feel either interested in or informed by that debate?

The whole of the labour movement's been interested and involved in that. If you actually look at what Tony Benn's been saying for over a decade, a lot of it was about democracy. I remember a speech in which he mentioned the Chinese philosopher who said really great leaders were the ones you never remember.

But however much we say yes, we want to build this participatory party, be a mass movement, at the end of the day all our style of operation in the Labour Party goes into winning control of smaller and smaller caucuses, getting someone elected to a leading position here, there and everywhere, and then waiting for them to deliver. And then when they don't deliver, you condemn them. And then the process starts again and you get somebody else in. And you're either got to accept that the whole history of the labour movement leadership is one of consistent and deliberate betrayal or perhaps we're going wrong somewhere and individuals are ways going to be either defeated or broken by events if we don't build a structure around them that allows them to thrive.

Given the weak labour movement, and the fact that it can't deliver to the masses and it doesn't involve them, people like Benn whilst he was in government, people like me whilst I'm in the GLC, can use the machinery almost as a substitute. That's one of our major weaknesses. We've got a very well-oiled, expensive machine that can make an impact, just as the government ministers have. Once that's gone, you're really back into the shell which the labour movement is.

In terms of the debate, it's partly the problem of who your friends are. A lot of the problem with the reaction to the Labour Left to Hobsbawm is the speed with which the most bankrupt ele-

ments of the Labour and trade union leadership grabbed on Hobsbawm to justify the last 20 years of failure. Now I'm not including Kinnock in that. And that was damaging. Because as soon as that lot started sneering at Hobsbawm, you pull away. Tony Benn sees a time when you've got to try to change the Labour Party affiliations, open it up.

The way I see it, the Labour Party should really be the parliament of the British Left and it should be open to everybody to participate in. They shouldn't have to do it through a very rigid structure.

But why should the rest of the Left have to regard the Labour Party as the centre of its universe? What about the Labour Party engaging in and taking some responsibility for some of the struggles that have been successful over the last few years. How about the possibility of seeing the Labour Party as one institution in the spectrum of the Left. The problem we've all got who are not in it is that the Labour Party has no responsibility, non-institutional forms of struggle.

But that's the point that I'm trying to make. I mean at some point there needs to be some sort of umbrella organisation through which the whole of the Left have their links and their relationships, and build whatever alliances they can about the particular struggles that affect them at that time. Now I believe that you can have the Labour Party either as one element of that or providing that umbrella role.

But people who are in movement, like the Labour Party, would feel it's a chaotic position to start from. You have supported those movements which seek to supersede that chaoticism, and that inevitably puts you in a position which represents a realignment on the Left.

You see, as realignment, I see it as widening out and bringing together. Because realignment has a context of exclusion and a context of a new dominance within that. I just don't think that can work. I mean, the people

that are the signatories of the Class Politics pamphlet, the Tankies in your party and the sort of McDonnellites in mine, if you try and exclude them, they are going to end up taking a sufficient body of support away to really weaken the chances of the new alignment you want.

What I'm saying is that we exist in a fascinating historical moment. And you in a sense embody what some of that change means to an awful lot of people. And what's fascinating about it is that there is a new historic settlement within the progressive movement at large. There are different terms for the alliances between the elements that make it up. For women one of the different terms is that we are no longer going to be subordinate. It's not a matter of kicking people around or kicking them out. It's about what alliances are most productive to advance a new historic settlement.

And there can't be a better time now to try and reach those people in the aftermath of what we've learnt from the miners' strike and the aftermath of what we've learnt from the rate-capping struggles.

But why then in that case did you hang on to a kind of personal political allegiance to political activists that didn't represent these things?

Because you're in a happy position. You can operate in a party where the struggle is between genuine old Tankies and genuine new Euros. I operate in a party where there is a sort of struggle between our Tankies, our Euros, and a very dominant powerful right wing. And therefore both wings of the Left have to work together.

They haven't done.

Oh they have. They have done quite a lot. All the gains that were made have been when those two elements have worked together. On the internal party democracy issues, the whole of the Left ended up in the same camp: we all struggled to get Militant in, and they came in at the last minute

and eventually everyone else was. On taking over the GLC, the whole of the London Left, for all their suspicions, for all we didn't trust each other, has combined on that. And the only time when anything is achieved within the Labour Party is when all those strands of Left opinion are brought together. And now over the last two or three years, when those links have been breaking down, we've actually seen a position where the Left is much weaker in that sense.

Can you imagine what the Left and the labour movement is going to look like at the end of the century? And how far do you think some of those transformations that we've been talking about are going to be built into its politics and its practice?

The potential is there for it all to happen — and for none of it to happen. If you have a Labour government that behaves in the way the GLC's done, it would massively advance that process. They aren't going to be able to do it in the old traditional way. So the next Labour government, either it's going to be defeated or it's going to have this chance of winning that struggle. Certainly it's not a foregone conclusion.

The way a lot of the parliamentary selections are going is quite interesting because the vanguardist Left is doing very badly. What is derisively called the soft Left, though it might be best to call it participatory Left, I think a much better definition of hard and soft is vanguard and participatory — that section of the Left that's doing quite well. And so there is a realignment of the issues of race, feminism and sexual politics firmly on the agenda. I think there is everything to fight for. It might just be very little progress by the end of the century, or massive progress.

Ken Livingstone is leader of the Greater London Council and Bea Campbell is the author of *Wigan Pier Revisited* and a member of the Communist Party. This interview is an extract from the article in the current issue of *Marxism Today* available from bookshops at 75p.

FACE TO FAITH

John Pearman

She God

THE CONCEPT "God-as-male" has for centuries made spiritual and devotion much easier for women than for men. A heterosexual female Christian naturally finds it more comfortable to construct and nourish a spiritual relationship with a God-perceived-as-male than does a heterosexual male Christian.

Although not paradigms of practical piety, observations such as this signal a deep-seated unease about the gender of God. In recent years the theological ferment has become increasingly audible. Often its manifestations are contradictory. We read of a female Christ being crucified in bronze; theological sexism comes under fire in the context of the militant nonordination of women as priests; a provocative report about the motherhood of God is widely remarked. Why is it that God is suddenly being subjected to this sex test?

One answer to the question would be to say that religion, in common with the secular domains of modern life, is having to demonstrate a sympathetic response to the potent feminising influences which have broken surface in Western culture in the last 15 years.

A sociologist might develop this by pointing to the role of religion as a champion of those who are discriminated against. If previously the concept of God-as-male and the devotion value-judgments which necessarily flowed from that perception have, in effect, been the instruments of subjugation for women (or for men) in the Church, then possibly the most Christian thing to do would be to question openly the veracity of the initial perception. What is at stake for Christian women is their dignity and their self-concept. Or so the argument runs.

The evolution of the Rastafarian movement in Jamaica, Western Europe, and elsewhere, is an analogous, albeit questioning of orthodox perceptions of God. In 1930 Marcus Garvey said: "Our God has no colour yet it is human to see everything through one's own spectacles and white people have seen their God through white spectacles, we have only now started to see our God through our own spectacles. Spectacles, we have only now started to see our God through our own spectacles. We negroes believe in the God of Ethiopia, the everlasting God."

To many black people in Jamaica, Christianity represented a Western European cultural and economic domination. When Crown Prince Ras Tafari was crowned Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia in 1930, he was proclaimed by Garvey's followers to be a direct descendant of King Solomon, and was hailed as the reincarnation of God and as the Saviour returned. Thus, in the time-honoured manner, religion came to be the vehicle which backed it up with the validating myth of a black-skinned God.

The whole area of discourse here is not about whether God is in actuality negro in appearance or femine in attributes. It is about the ways in which work in religious language is particularly ill-fitted to an individual's Christianity, if it is counterproductive psychologically — the Christian community should support that person in his search for a more helpful idiom. Conservatives might object that such a process is well known "truth" as revealed in scripture. Liberals might counter by arguing that religion is a way of being rather than a way of knowing, and that the real search should be for Christian idioms which are efficacious in daily experience now.

Religious idioms are only "true" for the individual believer if they work for that believer day by day. The truth consists in the experience of God which the idiom triggers. If God-as-female triggers in many people a faith-response which has hitherto been pressed by the concept God-as-male, is it not the absolute duty of a living Church to absorb the new idiom and to integrate it fully into its liturgy and government?

John Pearman is a religious education specialist and headmaster of Friern Barnet Grammar School, North London.

The Out of Court column will appear in future on the Friday Agenda page.

Why the opposition can't count on a victory in the bag

Ivor Crewe

THE weekend's varying interpretations of the shire county elections seemed to confirm that there are lies, damned lies and election statistics. This was only partly because politicians got in on the act. Projections of national voting figures (let alone parliamentary seats) are notoriously tricky. The General Election vote is double that in local elections and based on different issues. The quick-and-dirty method of aggregating the votes within a dozen or so parliamentary constituencies runs the risk of relying on a very small sample. Comparing whole counties with 1983 is preferable but needs to be adjusted for the failure of the parties, especially the Alliance, to contest every division. Hence the see-sawing interpretations between a decisive Labour victory and an Alliance triumph.

Almost all analyses, however, paint the same broad picture. Neither Labour's nor the Alliance's strategy of securing a breakthrough by destroying the other has materialised. Labour has recovered all of its 1983 losses but only some of its 1979 losses. In a General Election it would have become the largest party but without an outright majority. It needs a 10.5 per cent swing for a bare overall majority; in the event it was 9.3 per cent. Comparison with October 1974, the last

election Labour won, is instructive (see table). In all but three of the sample counties (each in the North), Labour's share of the two-party vote failed to return to its October 1974 level. In the South and Midlands, where most of the marginals are, its share was nearly 4 per cent down. The 1983 nightmare has been eased but an outright victory remains a dream.

Thursday's results mark both the achievements and limits of the new-look Labour Party under Kinnock. On his election as leader Labour support in the polls shot up overnight to 36 per cent — 37 per cent. Except for a few violent months of the miners' strike it has stayed close to there ever since. Both the elections, and the most recent poll, now put the figure at 37.5 per cent. The BBC/Gallup survey of the 1983 election-day found an identical proportion describing themselves as Labour identifiers. Labour is now polling its normal level of support but failing to make additional converts.

The Alliance's result — equivalent to 28.5 per cent of the national vote — was its best for half a century. Previous local election peaks in 1962, 1973 and 1983 have benefited from the media boost of a recent by-election victory (Orpington, Sutton, Hillhead), whereas this vote was won in a particularly low-key atmosphere. Another hint that this advance might be more solid than earlier occasions is the absence of a "plateau" effect. When a

HOW THE VOTES SWITCHED

	Change in share of 3-party vote 1981-85			Change in Lab share of 2-party vote 1983-85		
	Con	Lab	L/SD	Con	Lab	L/SD
Cheshire	-2.3	-0.6	+2.8	-11.6	+8.2	+2.4
Cleveland	+3.5	+0.5	+3.0	-9.5	+8.3	+1.2
Derbyshire	+2.0	-3.0	+0.9	-2.8	+2.9	-
Derby	-0.6	+0.1	+0.4	-2.8	+2.9	-
North (ind)	-1.1	-0.8	+1.8	-7.6	+6.4	+1.2
Derbyshire	+0.4	-3.0	+2.6	-8.7	+7.8	+0.9
Northants	+0.6	-1.2	+2.5	-10.9	+10.1	-0.1
Nottingham	-1.0	-5.5	+6.5	-8.4	+6.9	+1.4
Warwick	-3.4	-1.2	+4.6	-11.6	+7.5	+4.2
Midlands (ind)	-0.9	-3.2	+4.1	-9.9	+8.3	+1.6
Avon	-1.3	-5.5	+6.8	-9.8	+10.1	-0.3
Bedford	+1.2	-2.4	+1.2	-11.5	+11.5	-
Berkshire	+2.8	-4.9	+2.1	-10.8	+6.9	+3.9
Essex	-2.7	-4.4	+7.1	-14.1	+10.4	+3.7
Herts	-4.0	-6.1	+10.2	-12.6	+10.3	+2.3
Hamp	-4.5	-4.2	+8.6	-12.9	+10.4	+2.5
Somerset	-1.3	-4.4	+5.1	-12.7	+6.9	+5.8
South	-1.0	-4.8	+5.9	-12.1	+8.4	+3.6
All c'ties	-1.0	-3.3	+4.3	-10.3	+8.3	+2.0

Adjusted for the number of candidates put up by each party in each county.
October 1974 figures taken from David Butler and Vivie Kittinger. The 1975 Referendum, pp 266-7.

third party benefits from transient national surge, its vote typically goes up most where it was weak — and least where it was already strong. Ward-by-ward analysis of 1981-85 shifts in Alliance support suggests the opposite: it tended to perform best where it had a realistic chance of winning and, judging from its relative success in high turnout wards, where it campaigned hardest. As a result it suffered less severely than before from the first — past — the post electoral system (20 per cent of seats for 30 per cent of the shire-county vote).

Nonetheless, its real achievement is modest. It remains the third party in the polls and in most county halls. At a General Election its parliamentary representation would be a slim 40 or so seats — not enough to exploit, as opposed to hold, the balance of power. More-

over, the SDP's original aim of cutting ahead to the Labour vote has failed. Since the SDP's formation just before the 1981 shire elections, when the Conservative government was equally unpopular, the share from Labour to the Alliance has been a mere 3.5 per cent. This failure to replace Labour as the anti-Conservative party (except in some Conservative areas) is also reflected in its 2.6 per cent advance since 1983. This results from a substantial loss of converts from Labour in 1983 but a more than compensatory recruitment of disillusioned Conservatives in 1985. In this sense it masks a lost electoral opportunity. If it had retained all its 1983 voters and added its 1985 Conservative recruits the breakthrough would have been complete.

The new party system confirmed by these elections imposes uncomfortable electoral strategies on all three parties. It is not strictly a three-party system but a double two-party system in which the Alliance challenges the Conservatives in the suburbs, small towns and rural areas, and the Conservatives challenge Labour in the larger towns and industrial areas. The Conservative dilemma arises from facing a Labour Opposition in Parliament but an Alliance Opposition in the suburbs.

Their private polls will tell them that their actual and potential defections tend to share Dr Owen's views on defence and the trade unions, and above all on the

economy — on which they are more pessimistic than any time since the Falklands. They blame the Government, insist that there is an alternative, and have grown weary of Mrs Thatcher's style. But a U-turn or the economy would be an admission of defeat and, as Mrs Thatcher has said, she is too old to change now.

The Conservative party's traditional response to a Liberal challenge is to play the anti-Labour card. It worked a treat in 1977-79 during the Lib-Lab pact. Given that 68 per cent of not very strong Conservatives in 1983 said they disliked Labour more than they liked the Conservatives, it might work again. But short of formal Alliance pacts with Labour across the shire it will not be easy to persuade Conservative faint-hearteds that a vote for the Alliance will allow Labour to win Torbay or Cheltenham — that Dr Owen is likely to team up with Mr Kinnock.

Labour's electoral strategy is much more straightforward: ignore the Alliance and concentrate on opposing the Government. It is only defending nine seats in which the Alliance was the runner up and less than 15 per cent behind; the Conservatives are defending 38. Too successful an anti-Alliance Alliance campaign might only encourage their own supporters to vote Labour in Torbay and Cheltenham, and thus leave the seat in Conservative hands.

Condemning the Alliance for its positions on defence,

trade unions, and the mixed economy, is to praise it in the eyes of the non-socialist voters whom Labour wishes to attract itself. Coalitions in County Hall would be an electoral gift to the Conservatives. Now that the Alliance's role is to recruit disaffected Conservatives (many of whom would never vote Labour), plus Labour supporters where Labour could never win, it is in Mr Kinnock's interest for the Alliance to be sustained not destroyed.

The Alliance's electoral function is just as clear — and unpalatable to many in it. It has shown no capacity to replace Labour in industrial and working class areas and thus supplant the Parliamentary Labour Party — as some of its SDP founders originally hoped. Its role is to replace the local Labour opposition in the small town, rural and suburban areas with the aim of reducing the parliamentary Conservative Party. The more clearly it separates itself from Labour positions on a-nationalisation, unilateralism, and defence of the trade unions — the better its prospects of winning the disaffected Conservative vote, and gaining the seat. And the more such seats it wins, the more it benefits the Labour Party in Parliament. Politics is full of paradox, and no more so than three-party politics.

Ivor Crewe is Professor of Government at the University of Essex. He is grateful to BBC Newsnight and to Anglia TV for allowing him to use the county election results they collected.

Will Shaded ever be ready for the Derby?

Richard Baerlein

Prices offered by the bookmakers on the Ever Ready Derby after Saturday's General Accident 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, in which Shaded beat Balm a head, give the quite false impression that the Derby is a foregone conclusion between the first two.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. When I heard that Shaded, after a singularly unimpressive performance, was being quoted at a shorter price than the 4-1 on offer before the race, I began to doubt if I had been watching the same event as the layers.

It can be argued for one reason or another that the second in the Guineas, Balm, the third, Supreme Leader, and even the fourth, Royal Harmony, all have chances of beating Shaded at Epsom.

Then there are a number of important Derby trials in the next fortnight, after which Walter Swinburn, when he returns from a particularly savage 21-day suspension, may find a better Derby ride than Shaded from Michael Stoute's powerful stable.

Lester Pigott put up, even judged by his own high standard, one of his more enlightening performances. His switch from Balm did not necessarily account for his 20th classic success, if he had stayed with Balm he would still have won for no one else could have given Shaded the help he needed to hold on at Saturday.

In the Dip Shaded seemed to hesitate momentarily before Pigott forced him to remember his responsibilities. While Lester was adamant that Shaded gave a below-par performance, there will be no chance of judging if that is temporary or permanent as the colt will not run again before the Derby.

The rumour that Michael Stoute had training problems with his colt seemed well founded. I fear his temperamental will hold him back from following in the footsteps of his sire, Nijinsky, and from being the great racehorse his six-lengths victory in the Craven Stakes suggested he might be.

He looked magnificent in the paddock, ready to carry the opposition, yet despite the millions the bookmakers were about to pay out if he won he was easy in the market.

My advice to those who want to follow him to Epsom is to hold their bets until he arrives at the start. Otherwise his ante-post backers will suffer the annoyance of a continuous supply of adverse rumour.

While Luca Cumani owed his 58-1 victory to the Commancere Run to Pigott, he now owed the defeat of Balm to the same genius. Willie Carson, at his most determined, could never quite make up the ground, though Balm ran a marvellous race.

Michael Stoute told Pigott to take Shaded straight to the start rather than keep his place in the parade coming



MICHAEL STOUTE...fined £550

back up the course. That is contrary to the rules of racing and Stoute was fined £550.

Stoute said: "It was in the best interests of the punters." Rule 14, section two, states that in exceptional circumstances the stewards may cancel a parade or cancel the requirements for horses to be ridden in front of the stands, but it does not say what should happen if a trainer or jockey goes straight to the start and avoids the parade.

If the late William Hill was alive today I think he would make Balm the 5-1 Derby favourite and go 7-1 for Balm. The trainer still cannot account for Khomeini's poor performance at Epsom.

Silvermine, owned by Mr. Dame Head and trained by her daughter, Crique, best

the comparatively inexperienced Supreme Leader, ridden by Lester Pigott, two lengths in the French 1,000 Guineas at Longchamp yesterday.

The favourite, Park Appeal, in the colours of Sheikh Mohammed, was never in the running and suffered her first defeat as did the other Irish-trained runner, Aiydar's Best.

Brian Swift's widow, Sylvia, saddled her fourth winner when Prince Sabo ran out of a comfortable victory of the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket on Saturday and she now hands over that horse, who is likely to become the champion five-furlong sprinter, and others in her stable to Geoff Lewis. In her short spell as a trainer, Sylvia has the record of saddling as many winners as losers.

At Kempton today I like Alalai (2.15). Flyhome (2.45) who should recover Lincoln Handicap losses - and Joyful Dancer (3.15), who runs in the British Car Auctions Jubilee Handicap.

At Doncaster, Bare Essence (3.0) should credit John Dwyer with the Aika Selter Spring Handicap. The Swinton Insurance Brokers Handicap Hurdle at Haydock, with 225,000 added, has a very open appearance and, choosing from Statesmanship, Berlin and Alai, I have slight preference for the first-named.

RICHARD BAERLEIN'S SELECTIONS: Kempton: Alalai (2.15); Doncaster: Bare Essence (3.0); Haydock: Berlin (3.0); Sandown: Flyhome (2.45); Sandown: Flyhome (2.45).

Chris Hawkins tips a Cecil treble but...

Detroit Sam napped

DETROIT SAM (3.15), owned by David Wickins, whose firm sponsors today's big race, the 1,000 Guineas at Epsom, is napped to reverse recent Newbury form with Go Bananas.

The Newbury Spring Cup produced an amusing picture of a horse who, in his 12 lengths, with Detroit Sam a further length and a half away fourth. But Detroit Sam can now meet the winner on 10th best terms and a much better holder.

Also well beaten at Newbury was Joyful Dancer, who finished second in last year's Jubilee and can be expected to show improved form now.

Henry Cecil's stable is in fantastic form and the Newmarket trainer could easily land a treble today with

BATAVE (2.15) at Kempton, PERREAL (4.10) at Haydock and PERISSA (5.0) at Warrington.

Another Newmarket stable to note at the moment is that of Robert Armstrong, whose OCTOBER (2.0) looks one of the day's best bets in the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster. This colt is virtually a winner without a penalty, having failed by only a short-head to give Sir to the strongly fancied Prince of Wales recently.

The final big race of the jump season takes place at Haydock, the Swinton Insurance Brokers Handicap Hurdle, and that game from runner BA NOVA (2.35) should be hard to catch. He ran very well when only a length and a half second to Browne's Gazette in the Welsh Champion Hurdle last time.

HAYDOCK

2.00 Rm Lash/Rm 2.40 Jock
2.35 Rm Nova 4.10 Parnell
3.10 Record Wing 4.40 Jock

DRAW: (1) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 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Champion style that starts with Southall



SOCCER COMMENT

David Lacey

EVERTON are League champions in all but name and the nominal difference should vanish this afternoon. If they beat Queen's Park Rangers at Goodison Park the title will be theirs for the first time since 1970 and the eighth time in all.

A draw would virtually wrap it up since Liverpool could then only equal Everton's points total and they are already 18 behind on goal-difference. If Liverpool fail to win at Coventry tonight then whatever has happened at Goodison becomes irrelevant.

Practical to the last, Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, has stressed that "there will be no laps of

honour until we've made our points." Even so his team must be feeling like a golfer who can afford to take two putts from 12 inches to win the Masters. If the championship is not secured against QPR there is always the possibility of a tap-in at home to West Ham on Wednesday.

While Kendall is right not to celebrate until the deed is actually done there is no harm in assessing the qualities which have taken his team not only to the top of the First Division but the final of the European Cup-winners and FA Cup. To appreciate these qualities fully Hillsborough on Saturday was the place to be.

There Everton interrupted the successful private party that Sheffield Wednesday have staged against the top teams this season and in doing so displayed all the attributes which in the last 18 months have brought success back to Goodison like a thunderstorm hitting a desert.

Everton won the game with a goal from Andy Gray after 25 minutes, an edge of affairs in which Sharp's low cross brushed Lyons's studs before reaching Gray whose horribly sliced shot had Hodge going the wrong way. The Everton goal was made five minutes of the first half that they showed why they are where they are and they did so, moreover, on their own goal-line.

After being outrun and outkicked for most of the half Wednesday at last retained possession long enough to open up the wings and produce the consistently good crosses which are their forte. As a centre from Masood on the right dipped between the centre-backs, Varadi, seeing Southall by the near post, steered the ball towards the far corner of the net and turned away to celebrate the equaliser.

When he glanced back he realised that Southall had managed to fling himself along his line to push the shot wide. Varadi clutched hands to head in disbelief, a gesture repeated by many a home supporter during the next few minutes, edges of affairs in which Sharp's low cross brushed Lyons's studs before reaching Gray whose horribly sliced shot had Hodge going the wrong way.

It is hard to imagine any other First Division team surviving such pressure. During that spell you knew that the season had produced the right team as Champions. Gray's goal, Sharp's capacity for coming back to win the ball and hold it skilfully, the sheer industry of Reid as well as his vision, the clean tackling of Bracewell, Stevens and Mountfield — who covered superbly as Ratcliffe struggled with a groin strain — and the stability that Sheedy and Steven gave the

team were all in evidence as Everton extended their present unbeaten run to 26 games.

Inevitably Southall remained the focal point for most people's praise. Even Kendall, ever reluctant to single out individuals, had to say that "he pulls off some saves that he has no right to make."

Howard Wilkinson, the Wednesday manager, was equally generous towards the man who had prevented his team from scoring at home for the first time this season. "Nottingham Forest went a long way with Peter Shilton in goal," he said, "and Liverpool went a long way with Ray Clemence. This team could go a long way with Southall. This season I've seen him make some saves which you could have given him an excuse for not making and just said 'Hard lines'."

Wilkinson's assessment of the Everton side as a whole was equally blunt: "They're the best team in the First Division. They've got good players and they're prepared to get their faces dirty. They work hard all the time, home and away. They've now gone 26 matches without losing and in a situation like this a sense of inevitability comes into the mind. You start to say to yourself 'Why should it end?'"

Why indeed? Just consider Everton's record since the last day of 1983 when after a goalless draw at

home to Coventry before a crowd of just over 13,500 they lay 16th in the First Division, having scored a meagre 11 goals in 21 League games. Since then they have played 50 matches, won 27 of them, drawn 23 and lost 11, scoring 163 goals and conceding 68.

Should they win their remaining six First Division fixtures they will equal Liverpool's 1979 record of 68 points, if the victories are calculated under the old system. Having already scored 81 goals they should become the most prolific champions since Liverpool found the net 92 times in 1963-4.

An Everton supporter, given this information in the middle of the 1983-4 season, might have replied crossly that he was in no mood for fairy tales and please could he get back to sleep. Kendall himself would probably have thought it a poor joke although by then he had laid the foundations for the present success in three ways. Reid was a regular member of the team, Gray was in the squad having been signed from Wolves in November, and most crucially, Colin Harvey, was now first-team coach.

Harvey's influence should not be underestimated. Get players to play, whether they be good bad or indifferent, is the hardest job of all. Ask Don Howe, Kendall provided the components of the present Everton side but was

still cranking the starting handle when Harvey provided the ignition. All credit to Kendall for changing the plugs.

There is little point in comparing Everton to previous League champions. Each season brings its own problems, its own patterns of success. Everton are there mainly because they have got the basics right.

Can they win the treble? "Why not?" said Kendall. "It's now a matter of winning three games and we've gone 26 without a defeat."

"I don't see why not," said Wilkinson of the march in Rotterdam is just another game of football and so is the one at Wembley. Maybe it's a good thing they're playing in the Cup-Winners Cup final so close to Wembley. They have done it before, they'll carry on that normally precedes an FA Cup final. It will be just another football week."

If Everton do win the title today the one problem Kendall could face is keeping the team on the boil until a week on Wednesday. With the championship won there will be an enormous sense of relief and release among the players and if they are beaten in the meantime it may not be easy for them to rewind.

This is the sort of straw that West Ham must cling to following Saturday's 5-1 defeat at West Bromwich. Fail-



HARVEY: Key appointment.

ure to defeat Norwich tonight will further reduce the London club's chances of survival although the question of who goes down to the Second Division is some way from being completely settled.

What we do know now is that Wolves are down in the Third Division for the first time in 61 years, to be replaced by Hull City, and that Ron Saunders and Birmingham City, showing the grim tenacity of spiders in a waste-pipe, have climbed back to the First after only a season's absence. It was not the same without them.

Small wonder, then, that the rest of the Peugeot team, which includes Sean Yates of Sussex as domestique, will do everything to stop the Colombian getting clear. The next week will see a battle royal as the 129 survivors of the 170 men who started the race on April 23 pedal south to the Costa del Sol and then inland.

Both Millar and Rodriguez are mountain men and this tour, which gives no bonuses for stage wins, is made for their breed. The idea, of course, is to help the Spanish climbers and produce a home-based victory. But the chances of that happening vanished yesterday when the Spaniard, Pello Ruiz Cabestany, lost vital minutes on the hillside and was almost caught by Millar, who started out two minutes behind him.

We followed Millar on his lone sortie-alone, that is, apart from a cavalcade of TV crews and a "copier. He rode like a dream, crunched mounds of gravel and produced a hanging every inch of this race. But Millar deserves the same sort of recognition. King of the Mountains in the Tour de France last year, he is now arguably the greatest cyclist ever to come from Britain.

At the summit Rodriguez was besieged by the scores of Colombian journeymen, having every inch of this race. But Millar deserves the same sort of recognition. King of the Mountains in the Tour de France last year, he is now arguably the greatest cyclist ever to come from Britain.

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At the

Maurice Hamilton at Imola

Prost ruled out in chaos

MOTOR RACING

Victory in the San Marino Grand Prix was finally awarded to Elio de Angelis of Italy long after the Lotus driver had left the Imola circuit in the belief that he had finished second to the McLaren of Alain Prost.

The McLaren was disqualified for infringing the minimum weight limits at post-race scrutineering and, in some ways, the decision seemed appropriate after an event which had seen Prost steal an apparent victory at the end of a chaotic race.

Thierry Boutsen was classified second ahead of Patrick Tambay's Renault after the Belgian driver's Arrows-BMW. The Lotus driver, straddling the finishing line, had been overtaken by de Angelis (McLaren) and Nigel Mansell (Williams) also struggled to reach the finish to take fourth and fifth places.

De Angelis's victory, the second win in succession for Lotus, was some consolation for the British team after Ayrton Senna lost the lead four laps from the finish. Stefan Johansson then held the lead for half a lap before his Ferrari coasted to a halt and allowed Prost to take the win.

Prost's careful calculations saw his car run out of fuel as he made his way back to the pits but, what appeared to be a minor hiccup, meant that the Frenchman was eliminated after his car was found

to be four kilograms below the legal limit.

Prost had never been lower than fourth from the start and he took third place from de Angelis on lap 12 of the 60 lap race. An electrical problem on Michele Alboreto's Ferrari allowed Prost to move into second place 13 laps later and, within three laps, he had begun to attack Senna.

The Brazilian, showing all the skills which brought him victory in Portugal two weeks ago, withstood the pressure magnificently and Prost elected to drop back and conserve his fuel.

Johansson, meanwhile, had the crowd on its feet as he worked his way through the 15th place, the Ferrari driver taking third place from de Angelis with a brilliant move on lap 50. Prost offered no resistance four laps later and the Swedish driver suddenly found himself leading as Senna ran out of fuel.

Johansson suffered the same fate a few miles later and Prost's cunning drive appeared to have paid off as he took the lead for the first time, three laps from the end.

Nelson Piquet lost what would ultimately have been third place when his Brabham ground to a halt on the last lap, the chaos allowed Mansell to drive into the championship points for the second race in succession.

Derek Warwick was classified 10th after suffering a slow puncture on his Renault while a similar problem for Martin Brundle kept the Tyrrell driver in ninth place. Jonathan Palmer failed to take the start when his Zakspeed stopped on the warm-up lap with an engine problem.

Sandy Sutherland

Clarke's late lesson

ATHLETICS

Dave Clarke, of Hercules Wimbledon, the 1982 English cross-country champion, overcame the effects of canoeing injuries to win the first of the three Gayer's Inner City road races in Glasgow yesterday.

Despite winning a £750 subvention, Clarke, a PE teacher at Hampton, is reluctant to give up that post to become a full-time runner.

Clarke certainly did not give up in yesterday's competitive 10,000 metres. He was fifth at the start of the last of the 800-metre laps from George Square, but took the lead on the hill and outstripped John Richards (Duchy of Cornwall) and the American Olympian John Tuttle on the slight slope down to the finish.

Clarke, who will either defend his 5,000 metres title or run the 10,000 in the UK Championships in Ulster later this month, was timed at 28 minutes 5.3 seconds. Richards was second at 29 minutes 1.2 seconds, while the half-way leader in 14.02, third.

Brian Crowther

Brownson's record

SWIMMING

Suki Brownson (Millfield), who spent the winter studying and training at the University of Calgary, on Saturday broke the British record for 200 metres breaststroke, winning in 2min 33.16sec at the Speedo Cardiff meeting in the Empire Pool.

The 18-year-old Kent girl set the previous record at 2min 34.43sec in 1981. Her time also beat the British B qualification standard for this summer's European Championships. The British selectors recently de-

cided that only swimmers who achieve B time will now be eligible to go to the championships since for financial reasons they have to reduce the team to 18 swimmers.

Yesterday Brownson completed a breaststroke double when she won the 100 metres in 1min 12.05sec, a meeting record.

SPEEDO CARDIFF (meeting records): Men: 100m breaststroke: A. Brownson (City Leeds) 1:12.05; 200m breaststroke: S. Brownson (Millfield) 2:33.16; 400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 5:12.05; 800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 10:24.05; 1,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 20:48.05; 3,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 40:96.05; 6,400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 80:19.05; 12,800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 160:38.05; 25,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 320:76.05; 51,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 640:15.05; 102,400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 1280:30.05; 204,800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 2560:60.05; 409,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 5120:12.05; 819,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 10240:24.05; 1,638,400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 20480:48.05; 3,276,800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 40960:96.05; 6,553,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 81920:19.05; 13,107,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 163840:38.05; 26,214,400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 327680:76.05; 52,428,800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 655360:15.05; 104,857,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 1310720:30.05; 209,715,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 2621440:60.05; 419,430,400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 5242880:12.05; 838,860,800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 10485760:24.05; 1,677,721,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 20971520:48.05; 3,355,443,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 41943040:96.05; 6,710,886,400m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 83886080:19.05; 13,421,772,800m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 167772160:38.05; 26,843,545,600m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 335544320:76.05; 53,687,091,200m breaststroke: M. Brownson (Millfield) 671088640:15.05; 107,374,182,400m breaststroke: M. 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Radio 4

- 5:55 Shipping Forecast.
- 6:00 News Briefing.
- 6:10 Farming Week.
- 6:25 Prayer for the Day.
- 6:30 Today including 7.4.30 News.
- 6:35 The Week on 4.
- 6:45 The Heart of the Capital Mountains.

9 0 News; Yvonne Minton.
Conversation with the Australian singer.
10 0 News; Money Box. Finance tips.
10 30 Morning Story; An Ideal Family.
by Katherine Mansfield.
10 45 Daily Service from the Crypt of
Canterbury Cathedral.
11 0 News; The Thatcher
in the Morning

Born — early influences on the Tory leader.

11 30 Joan and Valerie Trimble. Career of the piano duo.

12 8 News: You and Yours.

12 27 King Street Junior. Last episode

1 0 The World at One: News.
1 45 The Archers.

3:00 News; Afternoon Play: Blithe Spirit. Noel Coward's ghostly

farce with Paul Edmondson, Julia
 McKenzie, Anna Massey.
 4 38 Young and Aspiring: company
 chairwoman Luella Tills.
 4 40 Story Time: The Past is Myself by
 Christabel Bielenberg (1).
 5 0 PM News magazine.
 6 0 Six O'Clock News.
 6 30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. Daff
 panel game.
 7 0 News: The Archers.
 7 20 If I Were You: sceptical look at
 advice columns, guides and
 consumer magazines.

8 15 The Monday Play: The Wild Duck, by Henrik Ibsen.
10 15 A Book at Bedtime: Voices in an Empty Room, by Francis King (6

11 15 The Heath and Mr. Playwright
John Burrows's relationship with
Hampstead Heath.

VHF: 1 55-2 0 pm Listening Corner
11 30-12 10 am Open University.
Wales (340m): 4 0 am As Radio 2. 6 22
Daloni Roberts. 7 33 AM. 10 3 Milk
Flynn. 11 30 Fair Play. 12 30 pm Mee
1 10 Sportstime. 1 40 Catch

[illegible]

3:30 Good Morning Scotland
 Jimmy Mack
 4:00 The Love Connection
 4:30 Lunchtime Report
 5:00 As Radio
 5:40 Robin Hall's Musicology
 6:30 Taking Issue with Colin Bell
 7:00 Good Morning Scotland
 7:30 News
 8:00 The Learning News
 8:30 2 Between Ourselves
 9:00 Musician in Scotland
 9:30 The Music Makers
 10:00 Macpherson Interview
 10:30 News
 11:00 Ferric
 12:00 Class As Radio 4

AFC World Service can be received in

5:30 am Newswatch. 7:00 News. 7:30 Twenty-four Hours. 7:30 Sarah and Company. 8:00 News. 8:30 Reflections. 8:15 Goldfinger. 8:30 Anything Goes. 9:00 News. 9:30 British Press Review. 9:15 Good Books. 9:30 Financial News. 9:40 Look

[illegible]

RY, 379 5899, CC 741
Sales 930 6123. Evgs.
5.80 and 8.30. Wed.
Mar. 3.0.

CAMDEN PLAZA, 485 2443 (opp
tube Camden Town). Yugoslian
FAVOURITES OF THE MOON
(15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (723
2011).
EDDIE AND THE CRUISERS
(14). See above. Don't work

PHOENIX, East Finchley. 885 2335
BRAZIL (15) at 3 10 5 30 8 10.

SCREEN AT THE ELECTRIC. 229
Some "A" class film — superb.
English, starring the FUTURE
of the screen, the beautiful
English mad-titles, starring film
queen, Helen Hayes, 2:15
and 7:30. G. C. 235
reduces times.

SCREEN AT BAKER STREET, 95
2712
Everett & Miranda
Rehearsal IN DANCE WITH A
MURDERER. 2:15, 5:30, 7:30
2:15, 5:30, 7:30
The Mad Doctor, Talking
Picture. 2:15, 5:30, 7:30
3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
Rehearsal
The Mad Doctor
2:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
ON THE HILL, 435 536P.
North Carolina Lumber Co. Build
ing. 2:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
The 13th CHOICE ME
2:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
Production. Bud Bar. 1:15
Production.

SCREEN ON SLINGTON GREEN

[illegible][illegible]

SADLER'S WELLS
LINDSEY KEMP & CO
See Thursday listing for details.

THEATRES

Regional

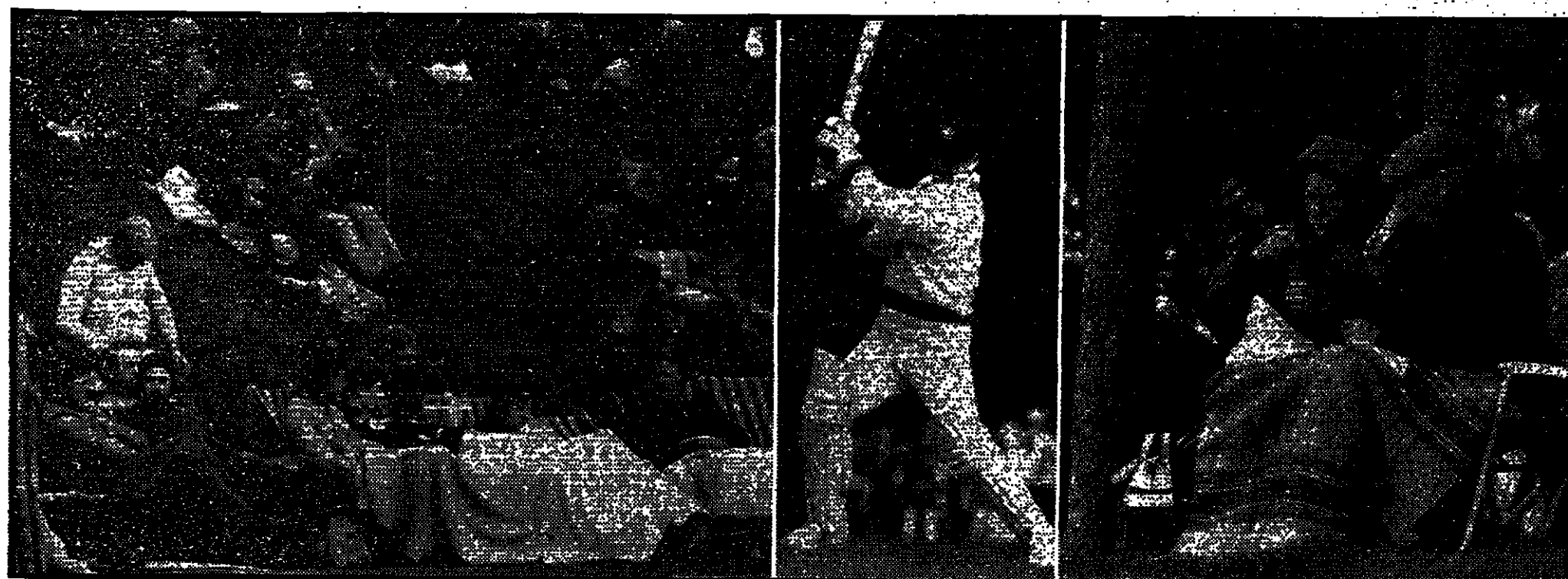
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre (1978)

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

IN MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
Tonight. Tomorrow.

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Coppo
151.
1.00.
singing for
and Vice
Credit
4-hour

10



COOL WARM-UP: At the opening match in Arundel, Sussex, of the Australians' tour, the captain Allan Border, hits out but fails to achieve more than a draw against the Duchess of Norfolk's XI while spectators stay well wrapped in the cold weather. Henry Blofeld, page 17.

Reagan balm for Bitburg's wounds

Continued from page one

President Reagan said to those who were worried that reconciliation means forgetting: "I promise you, we will never forget. I have just come this morning from Belsen, where the horror of that terrible crime, the holocaust, was forever burned upon my memory. No, we will never forget, and we say with the victims of that holocaust, 'Never again'."

Both his speeches, which were carefully drafted well in advance and released to reporters on Saturday, contained passages of pure pathos as well as rolling rhetoric. He dwelt on the memory of Anne Frank, buried somewhere in the heather-covered mounds which mark the mass graves of Belsen.

Speaking softly and apparently in some difficulty with his emotions, he stood before the memorial wall at Belsen with its inscriptions in European languages, and said: "Everywhere here are memories, making us understand that they can never be erased. Such memories take us where God intended His children to go, towards learning, towards healing, and above all, towards redemption. They beckon us through the endless stretch of our heart to the knowing commitment that the life of each individual can change the world and make it better."

At Bitburg, he said: "Twenty-two years ago Presi-

dent John Kennedy went to the Berlin wall and proclaimed that he, too, was a Berliner. Today, freedom-loving people around the world must say, 'I am a Berliner. I am a Jew in a world still threatened by anti-Semitism. I am an Afghan, and I am a prisoner of the Gulag. I am a refugee in a crowded boat foundering off the coast of Vietnam. I am a Laotian, a Cambodian, a Cuban, and a Miskito Indian in Nicaragua. I, too, am a potential victim of totalitarianism.'"

The Bitburg speeches were made before a military guard of honour at the air base, and a large crowd of admiring US servicemen's families. Mr Reagan had spent there in a motorcade from the cemetery past flag-waving and cheering older people. About 800 young people, mostly Jewish relatives of death camp survivors, made what protest they could as the President passed by from behind ranks of helmeted riot police.

Earlier, during the Belsen visit, which was boycotted by American and German Jewish groups, small knots of protesters were held at least a mile from the memorial by a solid phalanx of police. Among them were young protesters with banners reading "hands off Nicaragua" and "Ronnie, we will reserve a grave at Bitburg for you."

A group of Jewish-Americans were expelled from the camp the previous night. Yesterday, a French Jewish couple famed for their Nazi hunting, Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, claimed that police used brutality to keep them away.

Britain wants VE wreath at Murmansk

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The British Government has asked permission to make a special commemorative of VE Day at the northern port of Murmansk, the destination of the Arctic convoys which saw some of the worst wartime merchant marine losses.

The Russians have been asked to provide a ship to take Lieutenant-Commander John Hardie out to the Barents Sea to lay a wreath for British sailors lost bringing war supplies to the Soviet Union in the teeth of German U-boat and Luftwaffe attacks, and with the constant threat of the battleship Tirpitz.

Commander Hardie was the only one of the three naval attachés not expelled in last month's tit-for-tat expulsions of Russian and British diplomats.

While the wreath is laid at sea, Viscount Asquith will lay a wreath at the Soviet war memorial in Murmansk, and another embassy official will lay a wreath at the Commonwealth war grave outside Murmansk, where several RAF pilots from the fighter squadron based there are buried, alongside Royal Navy and merchant marine sailors.

Britain will be represented at the main VE ceremonies in Moscow by the ambassador, Sir Iain Sutherland, who will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and attend the commemorative meeting in the Kremlin, and the military parade in Red Square.

Representing the British veterans, representing the ambassador to the wreath-laying ceremony. The embassy said that it had no knowledge of another 50 British veterans who arrived in Moscow yesterday as guests of the Soviet veterans' association.

James Naughtie adds: A Labour MP last night accused the Prime Minister of being "rather embarrassed" about the celebrations to mark the fortieth anniversary of VE Day on Wednesday and called for a Commons statement paying tribute to the war dead and all Britain's wartime allies, including the Soviet Union.

Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, said Mrs Thatcher should use the occasion to try to revive dialogue with the Soviet Union.

Forty years ago, page 9

Teachers' settlement sought by Alliance

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

Euphoric Alliance councillors representing counties throughout England and Wales determined yesterday to use their new strength to break the teachers' dispute by destroying the Tory hold on the Association of County Councils.

At the same time they will be working at a local level to ensure that any arrangements for the teachers' dispute are controlled as a result of Alliance success in last Thursday's county elections can be sustained through the strains of minority rule.

The aim is to provide what Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal local government spokesman,

what Mr Hughes called "the Government's poodle" over the teachers' dispute.

Present composition of the body is 38 Tory, 54 Labour, six Liberal, and 12 independent. With over a fifth of the total county council seats, the Alliance hopes to see the fact reflected in ACC membership - "and that must mean that we would hold the balance," Margaret Clay, of the Association of Liberal Councilors, said yesterday.

"We would then go to the Government and ask them to pay the teachers more. Sir Keith Joseph has said that if employers and teachers' unions come to him with a deal he will put it to the Cabinet," she added. Such a deal, together with the support of the metropolitan authorities, would considerably strengthen the hands of the teachers' unions.

She was speaking after a conference in London of Alliance councillors which was organised long before the elections and consequently took place in a room which proved far too small, with many having to sit on the floor.

Initially, Alliance members on the 26 councils in which there is no overall control have decided to take various courses of action, depending on the results of the elections. Where they form the largest party (Gloucester, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset) they will seek to take the chairmanship.

In counties like Cambridge, East Sussex and Hampshire, where the situation is far less clear-cut, it is deemed too early to get a picture of Labour attitudes.

Where the Alliance is the third party they will be using their influence to establish a more stable framework, called "agreements that people would not be able to back down or resist from in the future." Alliance groups would want to see themselves given strong representation on all council committees, he said.

As a result, feverish arithmetic and horse trading will be taking place throughout the country in the coming weeks, with the intention of maximising the powers of the Liberal and Social Democrats in terms of local roles and the valuable seats on the ACC before the organisation holds its annual meeting next month.

At the moment the Alliance has high hopes that the complex arithmetic involved in the make-up of the organisation will favour their holding the balance and breaking the firm Conservative hold on the organisation which had made it

Agenda, page 12

Thatcher insists there's no alternative

Continued from page one

dependence. That is my dream." The interview came at the end of a difficult few days for Mrs Thatcher.

Last Thursday's Tory slide in the shire county elections, which boosted Labour's electoral credibility and left Alliance leaders talking of "permanent three-party politics", and unease among her backbenchers ushered in a tricky period for Mrs Thatcher.

With difficulties over rates reform and the package of social security changes now before the Cabinet, dissenting Conservative voices are likely to increase.

Wets among the backbench MPs concerned about the economic policy will not be slow to pick up the message from Mr Walker.

As a result, Mrs Thatcher's speech to Scottish Tories in Perth this week assumes a new significance.

She needs to calm worries about local rates reform, particularly as a revaluation has sharply increased Scots' rates bills, and must also react to last week's electoral setback so as to wrest the initiative from Labour and the Social Democratic-Liberal Alliance.

Last night the Prime Minister faced further criticism when Mr Francis Pym, in an interview recorded for the series The Thatcher Phenomenon on BBC Radio Four, produced a forthright statement of his doubts about her qualities as Prime Minister.

In a reference to the 1975 leadership election he said: "What worried me at that time was that, for all her great qualities which are many, she had a certain breadth of outlook that I felt a leader - a prime minister and a leader of the Conservative Party - needs to have."

"I didn't believe that she had the sort of depth of thought that is really necessary. That is what particularly worried me, and I think that actually on the whole that has been shown to be so, although as I say she has got some really remarkable qualities which she has used to the benefit of Britain and to the benefit of the party."

Mrs Thatcher sacked Mr Pym as Foreign Secretary after the Falklands war.

Indication of Sogat decision will hearten Labour Party

Print union votes for retention of political fund

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The print union, Sogat 82, has become the first organisation to vote in favour of retaining its political fund. The decision will bring much relief to Labour Party leaders.

The decision, expected to be officially confirmed later this week, shows that a majority of the union's 220,000 members who voted have agreed on the need to retain a political fund.

The campaign was fought mainly non-political lines, with members being advised of the need to maintain a political influence in Parliament, as do most other large pressure groups.

Voting was completed last Thursday and the count is being carried out at Sogat's headquarters. The final result is not expected to be known until tomorrow, but indications from the branches suggest that the move to retain the ballot has been confirmed.

Sogat leaders are preparing themselves for the result to be challenged, particularly by the Social Democrats, in view of the publicity attracted by the recent ballot for the Transport and General Workers' Union's general secretary. But they say that stringent regulations ensure that the ballot was conducted as fairly as possible.

The ballot was forced on the union by the 1984 Trade Union Act. This stipulates that any union with a political fund must canvass its members every 10 years to discover if they want the fund to continue.

A 12-month time limit for such ballots has been set established under the legislation, ending next March. Sogat leaders had been hoping for a high poll. Usually, the union gets a 40 to 50 per cent turn-out. One of the most important groups is the 23,000 retired members who are allowed to vote. The union affiliates to the Labour party on a 100 per cent basis, although some 125,000 members

have opted for the political levy.

Sogat was the first union to ballot as a result of pressure from the outgoing general secretary, Mr. Christopher. He is chairman of the trade union political fund campaign and was determined that it should get off to a good start with his own union leading the way. Apart, the white-collar union, is preparing its own ballot and the steelworkers' union will follow later this month. Most unions will have completed ballots by the end of the year.

Leaders of the far inspectors' union, the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, have been asked by the Certification Officer not to proceed for the moment with a proposal to set up a political fund.

Mr Tony Christopher, the union's general secretary, said last night that was disappointed at the ruling, but it was not the end of the road. "The new rule setting up such a fund is due to be placed before the IRSF's annual conference in Bournemouth next week. Mr Christopher said he thought that it would be withdrawn in view of the certification officer's ruling.

One of the points raised was that associate members of the union should not be excluded from voting in any ballot. Mr Christopher explained that the objections were not fundamental. He hoped that the ballot could be held later in the year after a special union conference.

If the IRSF agreed to a fund it would not be the first time it had operated one. Mr Christopher pointed out that a political fund had existed in the union more than 30 years ago, when Mr Douglas Houghton, the former Labour MP, was general secretary. But it had lapsed and never been replaced. The union's leadership thought this was an appropriate time to seek its re-establishment.

Shake-up for MI5

Continued from page one

exercise is to restore some polish to the tarnished image of the service, and to try to meet the reported complaints of staff.

One of Mrs Thatcher's concerns will be to head off demands for a parliamentary scrutiny committee on the security and intelligence services.

She may decide to be more forthright than any of her predecessors about the scope of changes made in the aftermath of the Betancourt case in the hope of dispelling some of the rumours, prevalent even among Tory backbenchers, for a new level of accountability for MI5.

Under a new director-general, believed to be Sir Anthony Duff, the service has been undergoing its most rigorous overhaul since its transition to a peacetime counter-intelligence agency after the second world war, and it is in Mrs Thatcher's interest to make this clear.

However, opposition MPs who hope for a glimpse of the organisational structure of the service and details of the most recent changes will be disappointed.

Ethiopian food crisis

Continued from page one

on with political curbs on aid to Ethiopia by the US and other Western governments.

Although the US is by far the biggest supplier of grain to Ethiopia from its huge stocks it refuses to supply lorries or goods which could be described as development aid. This is because Ethiopia nationalised US companies without compensation during the revolution and had not paid back all its loans.

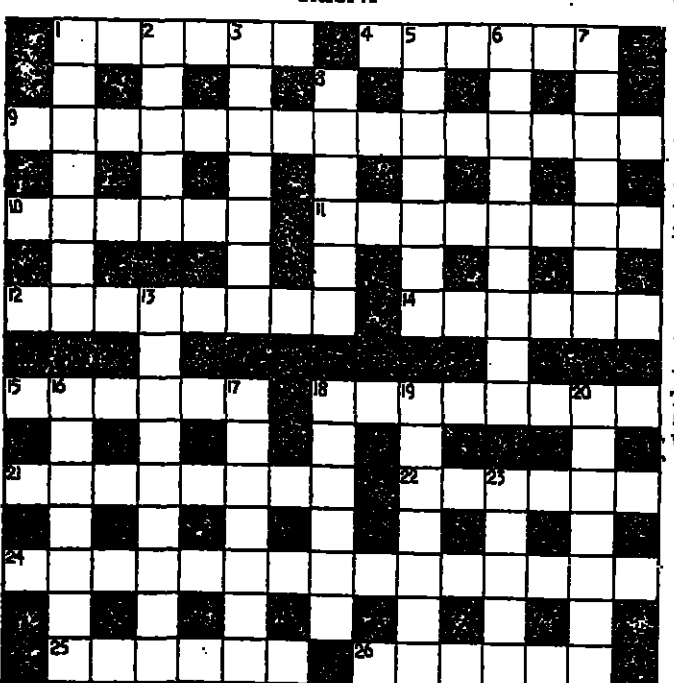
Most West European governments, including Britain, also refuse to give Ethiopia development aid as distinct from emergency relief - because of its Marxist government. Even projects as innocent as rural water development have been rejected by the British Government, and the only long-term British aid goes through the EEC, the World Bank and other institutions.

The transport report on which the UN appeal is based says that Ethiopia has only 600 of the 1,200 long-distance lorries needed, and 350 of the 1,842 smaller lorries to carry food to remote areas.

It also calls for increases in air drops and helicopter delivery of food.

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,228

CRISPA



ACROSS

- Nautical gear, note, is quite thin (6).
- Intelligence and puff failing (6).
- The farm-hand tore out the generators (8, 3, 6).
- Invention involving a craft for a little girl (6).
- Turning a gun on the heartless guide (8).
- A nice all-change for the union (8).
- Getting sarcastic about the listener being so cheerless (6).
- Must finish respecting the French and this is the way (6).
- Revolting child about to correct one (8).
- Left with expert - may well be moved (8).
- A pirate's treasure? (6).
- Beastly restriction currently operative (3, 7).
- A bit of fresh mackerel is healthy and appetising food (6).
- Stands for display in the theatre (6).

DOWN

- The main bar (3, 4).
- A woman's grateful (5).
- Medical practitioner having a rush on (7).
- A mother (really old) being spotted (7).
- Get in and order make-up etc. mind (8).
- He makes one cross, but not in public (7).
- Access - of course! (6).
- End it maybe and claim endless damages all the same (9).
- The fisherman presenting a dwarf to the queen (7).
- A poet in backstreet wanted old clothing (7).
- Notice outside quiet little church causing talk (6).
- Underworld boss dispatched for failure to agree (7).
- Titan appearing on cue as arranged (7).
- Travellers can hold a company up - but only in a certain area (5).

Solution tomorrow

SOLUTION (left) TO PRIZE PUZZLE 17,221

Winner of this week's £20 prize is Mr J. D. Pepper, of 6 Ash Grove, Keyworth, Notts. Runners-up (£10 book token each) are N. Robjohns, of 39 Hampden Road, London N8, H. J. Hartwell, of 39 High Stack, Long Buckby, Northants, and Mr R. A. Green, of 41 Mendip Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

THE WEATHER

Bright but rather cold

A COMPLEX area of low pressure over southern Britain will drift slowly into France.

London: SE, 5-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95, 96-100, 101-105, 106-110, 111-115, 116-120, 121-125, 126-130, 131-135, 136-140, 141-145, 146-150, 151-155, 156-160, 161-165, 166-170, 171-175, 176-180, 181-185, 186-190, 191-195, 196-200, 201-205, 206-210, 211-215, 216-220, 221-225, 226-230, 231-235, 236-240, 241-245, 246-250, 251-255, 256-260, 261-265, 266-270, 271-275, 276-280, 281-285, 286-290, 291-295, 296-300, 301-305, 306-310, 311-315, 316-320, 321-325, 326-330, 331-335, 336-340, 341-345, 346-350, 351-355, 356-360, 361-365, 366-370, 371-375, 376-380, 381-385, 386-390, 391-395, 396-400, 401-405, 406-410, 411-415, 416-420, 421-425, 426-430, 431-435, 436-440, 441-445, 446-450, 451-455, 456-460, 461-465, 466-470, 471-475, 476-480, 481-485, 486-490, 491-495, 496-500, 501-505, 506-510, 511-515, 516-520, 521-525, 526-530, 531-535, 536-540, 541-545, 546-550, 551-555, 556-560, 561-565, 566-570, 571-575, 576-580, 581-585, 586-590, 591-595, 596-600, 601-605, 606-610, 611-615, 616-620, 621-625, 626-630, 631-635, 636-640, 641-645, 646-650, 651-655, 656-660, 661-665, 666-670, 671-675, 676-680, 681-685, 686-690, 691-695, 696-700, 701-705, 706-710, 711-715, 716-720, 721-725, 726-730, 731-735, 736-740, 741-745, 746-750, 751-755, 756-760, 761-765, 766-770, 771-775, 776-780, 781-785, 786-790, 791-795, 796-800, 801-805, 806-810, 811-815, 816-820, 821-825, 826-830, 831-835, 836-840, 841-845, 846-850, 851-855, 856-860, 861-865, 866-870, 871-875, 876-880, 881-885, 886-890, 891-895, 896-900, 901-905, 906-910, 911-915, 916-920, 921-925, 926-930, 931-935, 936-940, 941-945, 946-950, 951-955, 956-960, 961-965, 966-970, 971-975, 976-980, 981-985, 986-990, 991-995, 996-1000, 1001-1005, 1006-1010, 1011-1015, 1016-1020, 1021-1025, 1026-1030, 1031-1035, 1036-1040, 1041-1045, 1046-1050, 1051-1055, 1056-1060, 1061-1065, 1066-1070, 1071-1075, 1076-1080, 1081-1085, 1086-1090, 1091-1095, 1096-1100, 1101-1105, 1106-1110, 1111-1115, 1116-1120, 1121-1125, 1126-1130, 1131-1135, 1136-1140, 1141-1145, 1146-1150, 1151-1155, 1156-1160, 1161-1165, 1166-1170, 1171-1175, 1176-1180, 1181-1185, 1186-1190, 1191-1195, 1196-1200, 1201-1205, 1206-1210, 1211-1215, 1216-1220, 1221-1225, 1226-1230, 1231-1235, 1236-1240, 1241-1245, 1246-1250, 1251-1255, 1256-1260, 1261-1265, 1266-1270, 1271-1275, 1276-1280, 1281-1285, 1286-1290, 1291-1295, 1296-1300, 1301-1305, 1306-1310, 1311-1315, 1316-1320, 1321-1325, 1326-1330, 1331-1335, 1336-1340, 1341-1345, 1346-1350, 1351-1355, 1356-1360, 1361-1365, 1366-1370, 1371-1375, 1376-1380, 1381-1385, 1386-1390, 1391-1395, 1396-1400, 1401-1405, 1406-1410, 1411-1415, 1416-1420, 1421-1425, 1426-1430, 1431-1435, 1436-1440, 1441-1445, 1446-1450, 1451-1455, 1456-1460, 1461-1465, 1466-1470, 1471-1475, 1476-1480, 1481-1485, 1486-1490, 1491-1495, 1496-1500, 1501-1505, 1506-1510, 1511-1515, 1516-1520, 1521-1525, 1526-1530, 1531-1535, 1536-1540, 1541-1545, 1546-1550, 1551-1555, 1556-1560, 1561-1565, 1566-1570, 1571-1575, 1576-1580, 1581-1585, 1586-1590, 1591-1595, 1596-1600, 1601-1605, 1606-1610, 1611-1615, 1616-1620, 1621-1625, 1626-1630, 1631-1635, 1636-1640, 1641-1645, 1646-1650, 1651-1655, 1656-1660, 1661-1665, 1666-1670, 1671-1675, 1676-1680, 1681-1685, 1686-1690, 1691-1695, 1696-1700, 1701-1705, 1706-1710, 1711-1715, 1716-1720, 1721-1725, 1726-1730, 1731-1735, 1736-1740, 1741-1745, 1746-1750, 1751-1755, 1756-1760, 1761-1765, 1766-1770, 1771-1775, 1776-1780, 1781-1785, 1786-1790, 1791-1795, 1796-1800, 1801-1805, 1806-1810, 1811-1815, 1816-1820, 1821-1825, 1826-1830, 1831-1835, 1836-1840, 1841-1845, 1846-1850, 1851-1855, 1856-1860, 1861-1865, 1866-1870, 1871-1875, 1876-1880, 1881-1885, 1886-1890, 1891-1895, 1896-1900, 1901-1905, 1906-1910, 1911-1915, 1916-1920, 1921-1925, 1926-1930, 1931-1935, 1936-1940, 1941-1945, 1946-1950, 1951-1955, 1956-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1975, 1976-1980, 1981-1985, 1986-1990, 1991-1995, 1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2006-2010, 2011-2015, 2016-2020, 2021-2025, 2026-2030, 2031-2035, 2036-2040, 2041-2045, 2046-2050, 2051-2055, 2056-2060, 2061-2065, 2066-2070, 2071-2075, 2076-2080, 2081-2085, 2086-2090, 2091-2095, 2096-2100, 2101-2105, 2106-2110, 2111-2115, 2116-2120, 2121-2125, 2126-2130, 2131-2135, 2136-2140, 2141-2145, 2146-2150, 2151-2155, 2156-2160, 2161-2165, 2166-2170, 2171-2175, 2176-2180, 2181-2185, 2186-2190, 2191-2195, 2196-2200, 2201-2205, 2206-2210, 2211-2215, 2216-2220, 2221-2225, 2226-2230, 2231-2235, 2236-2240, 2241-2245, 2246-2250, 2251-2255, 2256-2260, 2261-2265, 2266-2270, 2271-2275, 2276-2280, 2281-2285, 2286-2290, 2291-2295, 2296-2300, 2301-2305, 2306-2310, 2311-2315, 2316-2320, 2321-2325, 2326-2330, 2331-2335, 2336-2340, 2341-2345, 2346-2350, 2351-2355, 2356-2360, 2361-2365, 2366-2370, 2371-2375, 2376-2380, 2381-2385, 2386-2390, 2391-2395, 2396-2400, 2401-2405, 2406-2410, 2411-2415, 2416-2420, 2421-2425, 2426-2430, 2431-2435, 2436-2440, 2441-2445, 2446-2450, 2451-2455, 2456-2460, 2461-2465, 2466-2470, 2471-2475,